

Searching you, your possessions, and your property



- When you are arrested, the Police have the right to search:
 - You and your belongings;
 - Any place the Police believe may contain evidence (e.g. your property, vehicle, computer, handphone, etc.).
- If you are a woman, only another woman can search you, unless you are suspected of being a terrorist.
- Upon a search being conducted, the police may seize any items as evidence, and an acknowledgement slip will be given to you. At the conclusion of the case, the court will decide what to do with the seized items – e.g. whether to return the items to you or to have them disposed of.

Prosecution / Court appearance



- Within 48 hours of your arrest, the Police must either bring you to court or release you, either on bail or unconditionally.
- When you go to court, the prosecutor may apply to detain you for more than 48 hours from the time of your arrest. However, the prosecutor must give the court reasons why the police need to detain you further. You may object to this request and ask the court to explain why you are being detained further. The court will decide whether you may be detained further.
- You may also ask the court for permission to contact your family and for an opportunity to speak with or engage a lawyer.

Legal Aid



If you have further enquiries or if you would like to apply for legal aid under the Criminal Legal Aid Scheme (CLAS) and cannot afford to engage your own lawyer, please contact or visit the Pro Bono Services Office bringing with you copies of your charge sheets and your CPF statement showing your contribution history for the last 12 months.

Criminal Legal Aid Scheme

1 Havelock Square

State Courts Towers, B1-18

Singapore 059724

Tel: 6534 1564 / Fax: 6534 5237

Email: clas@lawsocprobono.org

Opening hours: Monday - Friday, 9am - 5.45pm

Disclaimer

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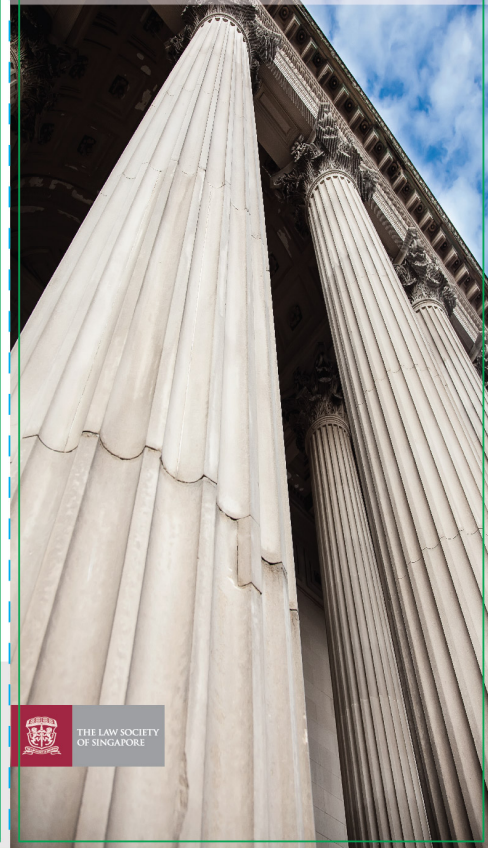
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Criminal Investigations **KNOW YOUR RIGHTS**



THE LAW SOCIETY
OF SINGAPORE

Introduction



Criminal investigations in Singapore are conducted by the police and various other law enforcement agencies. This pamphlet provides some basic information so that you will know what to do if you are asked to assist in an investigation by the police or other law enforcement agencies, e.g. Central Narcotics Bureau, Corruption Practices Investigation Bureau etc. (the "Police").

Investigations



- The Police have the right to ask for your name and home address. The Police can also question anyone when investigating a crime. You may be arrested if you do not provide this information to the Police.
- You may be asked to give a statement to the Police, whether or not you have been arrested.
- When making a statement, you should note the following:
 - Your statement will usually be written in English. However, you will be interviewed in a language that you understand. If you need an interpreter, you should tell the Police as soon as possible and an interpreter may be arranged.
 - You are required to tell the truth, but you do not have to say anything which might expose you to a criminal charge.
 - If you have a defence or any explanation to make, you should tell the Police and make sure this is written in your statement. If you wait until your trial to raise it for the first time, the judge may not believe you.



- Read your statement carefully before signing it. Make sure it is accurate and complete.
- You can make changes to your statement before you sign it.
- If you do not understand what is written in your statement, you can ask the recorder or the interpreter to explain it to you.
- If you have been arrested, detained or charged, you may do the following:
 - Ask to make a call to your family or a lawyer.
 - Ask for visits by your family or a lawyer.
 - Ask to consult a lawyer of your choice.
 - However, these requests may be refused if the Police think it will interfere with their investigation.
- During your time at the station, you may also:
 - Request for food, drink and toilet breaks;
 - Inform the Police and/or request to see a doctor if you feel unwell at any point in time.

Charge



- Before you are charged with an offence, you may be asked to give a statement called a "cautioned statement".
 - The Police will read to you the charge which you will face.
 - You will be informed that if you wish to raise any fact or matter in your defence, you should state it now and have it recorded in your cautioned statement. Otherwise, if it is only raised for the first time in court, the judge may not believe it.
 - Whatever you wish to say will be written down, read back to you in a language you understand, and signed by you.
 - You can make changes to your statement before you sign it.
 - If you do not understand what is written in your statement, you can ask the recorder or the interpreter to explain it to you.
 - A copy of the charge and cautioned statement will be given to you.
- If you feel that you have been mistreated or threatened during investigations or if any officer makes promises to you in relation to your charges or sentence, you should make a report to another officer as soon as possible or tell the judge / your lawyer as soon as possible.