



Arrested for Domestic Violence in New Orleans?

Your First Steps to Protection and Freedom

At Crescent City Law, we understand the unique challenges faced by individuals charged with domestic violence. We know the Louisiana legal system inside and out and it can sometimes be unfair to the accused. That's why we're committed to protecting your rights and fighting for the best possible outcome in your case.



This guide is designed to help you understand the immediate steps you need to take, along with important considerations for protecting your future.

Step 1: Getting Out of Jail

In Louisiana, Gwen's Law mandates that individuals arrested for domestic violence be held for a 72 hours cooling period before they can be released. This allows law enforcement to investigate the situation and determine if any protective measures are needed.

** In Louisiana, Gwen's Law states that If the court orders a contradictory hearing, the hearing shall be held within five days from the date of arrest (not including weekends or holidays).*

Step 2: Critical Actions Upon Release

As a condition of your release, you're required to sign a restraining order that restricts your contact with the alleged victim and may also impose other conditions. If you and the alleged victim share a residence, you'll need to find another place to live for the duration of the order. Additionally, surrendering any firearms you own is a condition of release in domestic violence cases.

In New Orleans, individuals released after a domestic violence charge may be required to participate in the Domestic Violence Monitoring Program (DVMP), which includes regular check-ins, counseling, community programs, and random drug testing, all overseen by the Orleans Parish Sheriff's Office and mandated by the court.

Step 3: Taking Proactive Steps

Even if not mandated by the court, it's crucial to take these proactive steps to demonstrate your commitment to change and potentially mitigate the consequences of the charges:

- **Anger Management and Family Violence Counseling:** These programs equip you with tools to address any underlying issues contributing to the incident and help you build healthier relationships.
- **Consult with an Attorney:** An experienced criminal defense lawyer specializing in domestic violence can guide you through the legal process, protect your rights, and fight for the best possible outcome.

Step 4: Long-Term Considerations

It's important to understand the potential long-term consequences of a domestic violence conviction. Violent felonies cannot be expunged from your record. A New Orleans criminal defense lawyer can advise you on your eligibility for expungement if the charges are less severe.

A felony conviction can have far-reaching effects on various aspects of your life, including:

- **Employment:** You may face difficulty finding or keeping a job.
- **Housing:** Landlords may be hesitant to rent to you.
- **Child Custody:** Your rights as a parent could be jeopardized.
- **Loss of the Right to Possess a Firearm**

If you've been arrested for domestic violence, Crescent City Law is here to provide compassionate, effective legal representation. We'll fight tirelessly to protect your rights and help you secure the best possible outcome for your case. Contact us today for a confidential consultation.



935 Gravier Street, Suite 850, New Orleans, Louisiana 70112

Phone: 504-264-9492

info@crescentcitylawfirm.com

www.CrescentCityLawFirm.com