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CRESCENT CITY LAW

What if I Need to Turn Myself in to Jail – and How Fast Do I Get Out?

From time to time, a criminal defense client who hires our team at Crescent City Law has a warrant out for their arrest. In these cases, we'll have to help them be booked into custody, make bond, and then we can defend their case together.

Here's what that process looks like.

1 **Hire Crescent City Law.**

We won't be able to help you until we've been officially hired as your legal representation.

2 **We'll confirm that you have a warrant out for your arrest.**

We usually work with a "friendly" neighborhood police officer to do this since cops are not supposed to check for this information for the public.

To do this, we'll need the following information from you:

- Name
- Date of birth
- Race
- What you're being accused of (if you know what it is)?
- Where the arrest warrant is from (which Parish, Police District, or the agency who issued the warrant, etc.)?

(If we are not able to locate a warrant out for your arrest, we'll let you know. But this doesn't always mean there isn't a warrant. We just weren't able to find one. The only way to be 100% sure there isn't a warrant for your arrest is for you to attempt to turn yourself in and be turned away by the arresting agency.)

As part of your attorney-client privilege, we will not provide your contact information, location, etc., to law enforcement, a judge or anyone else, without your explicit consent (or – in rare cases – an order from the Louisiana Supreme Court).

Instead, we will let you know if there is a warrant for your arrest to the best of our knowledge.

3 Turning yourself in

If you choose to turn yourself in, we recommend that you turn yourself in early in the morning and at the beginning of the week with the goal being able to get out of jail quickly. This way, our team at Crescent City Law will have as much time to get you out as quickly as possible.

We recommend wearing comfortable shoes and clothes, warm socks, no jewelry, and only bring your ID card, some cash, our Crescent City Law business card, and a single debit card when you turn yourself in to be arrested.

Do not bring anything you don't want to lose or that could further incriminate you.

When you're arrested, law enforcement should read you your Miranda rights ("You have the right to remain silent," etc.) pursuant to the warrant.

You should invoke these rights: Stay silent, request counsel (Crescent City Law), and do not provide any further evidence to the police.

Be prepared: You will be handcuffed and brought to jail, which will be a traumatic experience.

You'll be "booked" into jail, which includes:

- Getting your fingerprints and mugshot taken
- Providing the agency arresting you with identification information
- Undressing in front of an officer and changing into clothes provided to you
- Turning in your personal belongings

After this process is complete, we can start the process of getting you released.

4 Getting You Released

We'll start by reaching out to the appropriate judge, magistrate, or commissioner in your case to secure a bond.

Once a bond is set, we will contact your Point of Contact to tell you the bond amount so that your Point of Contact can pay a bond company to get you released. The average cost of a bond with these companies is between 8-12% of the total bond amount, plus extra fees that the bond company charges ("document fees," etc.)

Lawyers are prohibited from paying your bond for you.

Once your bond is paid, the bond company will provide the bond to the clerk, who will tell the jail to release you.

Alternatively, you could pay bail, which is when you or your family pay the full bail amount to the court, and the money is refunded at the end of the case as long as you appear in court.

5 You're Released!

Historically, the best turnaround time from arrest to release was 3 hours – but this was for someone whose parents worked for the president of the United States.

For the rest of us, the average turnaround time is about 8 hours, although many people spend 24 hours in jail before being released. An important note: Under Gwen's Law, which was passed in 2017, those arrested for domestic violence charges will be held for a minimum of 3 days, exclusive of weekends.

Even though we are your criminal defense team, we have no control over how fast you can be released from jail, so you should be prepared for anything when you turn yourself in.

Crescent City Law Don’t Let One Mistake Cancel Your Future!

Call 504-264-9492 now to schedule a free consultation with our team so that we can get started on your case.

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