



Model EU-Letter of Rights for suspects and defendants in criminal proceedings

You are entitled to keep this letter of rights with you during your detention

If you are deprived of your liberty by the police because you are suspected of having committed an offence you have the following rights:

- A. to be informed of what offence you are suspected**
- B. not to answer the police's questions or to give any statements to the police**
- C. to assistance of a lawyer**
- D. to an interpreter and translation of documents, if you do not understand the language**
- E. to notify somebody of your deprivation of liberty**
- F. to inform your embassy if you are a foreigner**
- G. to know for how long you can be detained**
- H. to see a doctor if you feel ill or need medicine**

You can find more details of these rights inside

A. Information on the suspicion

- You have the right to know what offence you are suspected of immediately after deprivation of liberty, even if the police do not question you.

B. Right to remain silent

- You do not have to answer the police's questions nor give any statements to the police
- A lawyer can help and advise you on the law and help you to take decisions on whether or not to answer questions.
- If you want a lawyer, the police are not allowed to start questioning you before you have had the opportunity to talk with a lawyer.

C. Help of a lawyer

- You have the right to talk to a lawyer before the police start questioning you.
- If you ask to speak to a lawyer, it does not make you look like you have done anything wrong.
- The police must help you to get in touch with a lawyer.
- If you are not able to pay for a lawyer, the police have to provide you with information how to get free legal assistance.
- If you want to talk to a lawyer but do not know one, or cannot get in touch with your own lawyer, the

police must take care of arranging that a lawyer is appointed for you in case you have a right to free legal assistance.

- **The lawyer is independent from the police and will not reveal any information you give to him or her without your consent.**
- **You have the right to speak with a lawyer in private, both at the police station and/or on the telephone.**
- **You can ask your lawyer to be present during the interrogation by the police.**

D. Help of an interpreter

- **If you do not speak or understand the language, the police will arrange for an interpreter.**
- **The interpreter is independent from the police and will not reveal any information you give him without your consent.**
- **You can also ask for an interpreter to help you to talk to your lawyer.**
- **The help of an interpreter is free of charge.**
- **You have the right to receive a translation of any order or decision concerning your detention.**
- **You have the right to have documents of the investigation translated that are important for a request for release (see under G).**

E. Telling somebody that you are detained

- Tell the police if you want someone, for example a family member or your employer, to be told that you are detained.

F. For foreigners: how to contact your embassy

- If you are a foreigner, you can tell the police to inform your embassy or consular authority that you are detained and where you are being held.
- The police must help you if you want to talk to officials of your embassy or consular authority.
- You have the right to write to your embassy or consular authority. If you do not know the address the police must help you.
- The embassy or consular authority can help you with finding a lawyer.

G. How long can you be deprived of your liberty?

- You have the right to ask a judge for your release at any time. Your lawyer can advise you on how to proceed.
- You or your lawyer can ask to see the parts of the case-file relating to the suspicion and detention or be informed about their content in detail.
- If you are not released, you must be brought before a judge within * hours after you have been deprived of your liberty.
- The judge must then hear you and can decide whether you are to be released or to be kept in custody.

- You have the right to receive (a translation) of the judge's decision if he decides that you will remain in custody.

H. Medical care

- If you feel ill or need medicine, ask the police to see a doctor.
- You have the right to be examined by a doctor in private.
- You can ask for a male or a female doctor.