

If you've been charged
with a crime, don't go it alone.
You need a lawyer to help you.

Whether you're guilty or not, a lawyer can:

- Fight the charges
- Get the judge to let you out of detention
- Find out what other people are saying you did
- Make a deal for you with the prosecutor
- Question the witnesses against you, and try to show they're lying or mistaken
- Get your witnesses to come to court
- Show the police violated your rights
- Argue that the evidence against you should be thrown out
- Make arguments to the judge for a lighter punishment
 - Keep you out of jail, and come up with another solution
 - Get your fines and costs lowered
 - Keep your case in juvenile court
 - Get counseling for you and your family, if you want it



The lawyer's job is to listen
to you & fight for you.



My lawyer is _____

Phone number _____

Address _____



BARRY
UNIVERSITY

DWAYNE O. ANDREAS
SCHOOL OF LAW

SPLC



Southern Poverty Law Center

For more information, contact:

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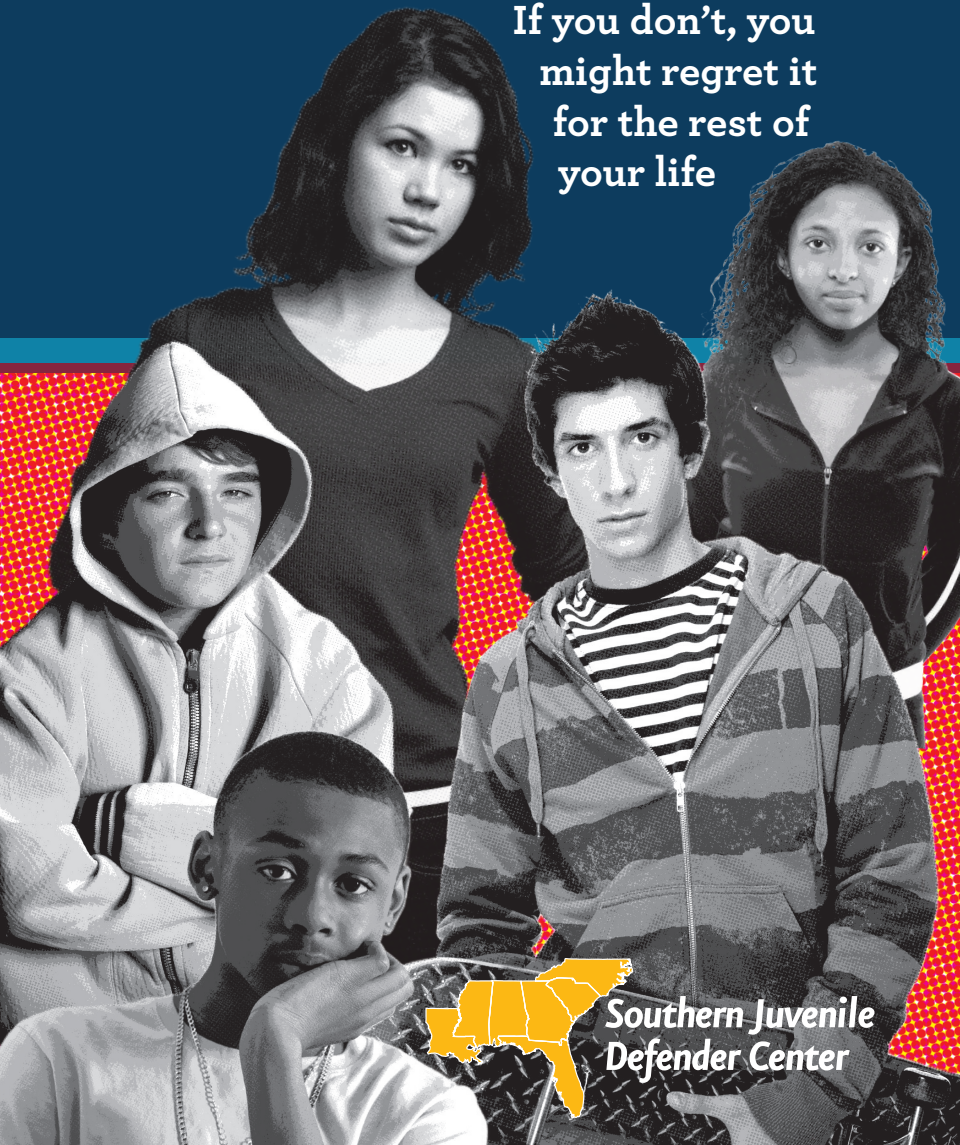
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CHARGED WITH A CRIME? DON'T GO IT ALONE... TALK TO A LAWYER

If you don't, you
might regret it
for the rest of
your life



**Southern Juvenile
Defender Center**



DANGERS OF PLEADING GUILTY

Sometimes pleading guilty is the best option, but a lawyer is trained to help you figure out whether it's the best option in your case. Before you make that decision, talk to a lawyer!

Pleading guilty could have very bad results that could affect the rest of your life.

If you admit that you committed a crime in juvenile court, you could:

- Be locked up in a juvenile prison until you are 21
- Be on probation until you are 19, which means having to report to a probation officer, having a strict curfew, and submitting to random drug testing
- Have your learner's permit or driver's license suspended
- Get kicked out of your current school
- Get kicked out of public housing
- Be banned from serving in the military



- Have a criminal record that future employers and schools can ask you about
- Be banned from working as a police officer, commercial driver, counselor, nurse, landscape architect, private investigator or teacher, if you did certain crimes

Pleading guilty can also cost you and your parents a lot of money.

- You could be forced to pay probation costs and fines
- You and your parents could be forced to pay court costs and pay back any damage you did





BE SMART

Take these steps to protect yourself if you are accused of a crime.

- Ask for a lawyer to be appointed to you. All you have to say is “I want a lawyer.”
- Do not talk about your case with anyone except your lawyer.
- Do not plead guilty or admit to the charges without a lawyer.
- Get the lawyer’s phone number and give your phone number and address.
- If you’re not in detention, make an appointment to see the lawyer as soon as possible.
- Talk to the lawyer about your case and ask all of your questions.
 - Discuss your options with the lawyer and find out what might happen with each option.
 - Think carefully about your decisions, and try to understand the advice your lawyer is giving you.