

INDIANA FEDERAL COMMUNITY DEFENDERS

www.indianafederaldefender.org

WHO WE ARE: We are criminal defense lawyers who represent people charged with federal crimes in the Southern District of Indiana, who cannot afford to pay for a lawyer. We can represent you only if the court appoints us, based on your financial need. Once appointed, we work for you! Our job is to give you the best defense possible. Your defense team includes your trial attorney, a research specialist, an investigator, a paralegal and a legal secretary.

If there are other defendants in your case, we can represent only one person. If you qualify financially and we don't represent you, we will arrange for the court to appoint a private lawyer, known as a "panel attorney" to your case.

The Assistant Federal Defender you meet the first day you come to court is responsible for new arrests that day. He or she will represent you that day. Later, your case will be assigned to the best attorney for your case. That attorney will then handle your case all the way through.

CONTACTING US: We are located at 111 Monument Circle, Ste. 752, Indianapolis, Indiana. Our phone number is 317-383-3520. We accept collect calls. We are open from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., but you can leave a message at any time. If you call collect during business hours and your call is not accepted, it only means that your attorney is not in the office. We cannot call you while you are in jail, but your attorney will visit you. If you are out of custody you will meet with us in our office.

JAIL: As a federal prisoner, you are in the custody of the United States Marshal. They will hold you initially at the Marion County Jail, and if you are detained, you may be transferred to the Henderson County Detention Center or the Grayson County Detention Center, in Kentucky.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW:

DO NOT discuss your case with anyone except your attorney. Everything you say to your lawyer is completely confidential. Do not discuss your case with any law enforcement officers. If they try to talk to you, tell them you want your lawyer there.

DO NOT discuss your case with other inmates, including your cellie, in any language or code. Anything you say could be used against you. Do not discuss the case with friends or family, in any language. All phone calls are recorded. You should assume all social visits are being recorded and that everyone is cooperating with law enforcement. Other people, even family members, could be forced to testify about what you say to them. Your lawyer, and the people working for him or her, are the only ones you should talk to about your case.

DO NOT believe what you hear from other inmates about what might happen to you. Most jail inmates are not federal prisoners and do not know about federal cases. Even among federal prisoners there are many false rumors about what sentencing deals and other matters. Your lawyer will have accurate information.

WHAT IS A FEDERAL CASE? You are charged with a federal crime. A federal crime is either a crime that violates a law passed by Congress for the whole country, or a crime that happened on property owned by the United States government, like a military base. Federal court is very different from state court.

WILL I BE RELEASED? As a federal prisoner, you will not have bail automatically set. There will be a detention hearing, at which the judge will decide whether to release you or keep you in jail for now.

COURT: Your case will be heard in United States District Court. The courthouse is located at 46 East Ohio Street, Indianapolis. Anyone entering the courthouse will need to show a government issued photo ID, such as a Driver's license or ID card.

STAGES OF A FEDERAL CASE: These are the stages that a federal criminal case may go through:

1. Initial appearance and arraignment
2. Detention hearing
3. Discovery and investigation
4. Motions
5. Plea negotiations and change of plea and/or Trial
6. Sentencing, if convicted
7. Appeals and other post-conviction relief