

Searching you, your possessions, and your property

- When you are arrested, the Police have the right to search:
 - You and your belongings;
 - Any place the Police believe may contain evidence (e.g. your property, vehicle, computer, handphone etc.).
- Women may only be searched by another woman and with strict regard to decency.
- If the Police decide to search places such as your home or workplace, they may seize any items found therein as evidence. At the conclusion of the case, the court will decide what to do with the seized items – e.g. whether to return the items to you.

Prosecution

- Within 48 hours of your arrest, the Police have to either bring you to court or release you, either on bail or unconditionally.
- When you go to court, the prosecutor may apply to detain you for more than 48 hours. However, the prosecutor must give the court reasons why the Police need to detain you for a period longer than 48 hours. You may object to this request and ask the Court to explain why you are being detained for more than 48 hours. The Court has the final say on whether or not you should be detained for more than 48 hours.
- You can also ask the Court for permission to contact your family and for an opportunity to speak with or engage a lawyer.
- If you feel that you have been mistreated during the investigation or need to see a doctor, you should inform the judge as soon as you can.
- If you do not agree with the statement which you signed during investigations, or if the Police made any promises about your charges or sentence at the police station, you should inform the judge as soon as you can.



Legal Aid

If you have further enquiries or if you would like to apply for legal aid under the Criminal Legal Aid Scheme (CLAS) and cannot afford to engage your own lawyer, please contact or visit the Pro Bono Services Office bringing with you copies of your charge sheets and your CPF statement showing your contribution history for the last 12 months (please see contact information below).

Disclaimer:

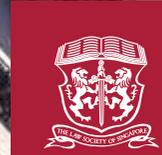
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THE LAW SOCIETY
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Criminal Investigations *Know Your Rights*



Introduction

Criminal investigations in Singapore are conducted by the police and various other law enforcement agencies. This pamphlet provides guidance so that you will know what to do if you are asked to assist in an investigation by the police or other law enforcement agency, e.g. Central Narcotics Bureau, Corruption Practices Investigation Bureau etc. ("the Police").

Investigations

- The Police have the right to ask for your name, home address and NRIC. The Police can also question anyone when investigating a crime. You may be arrested if you do not provide this information to the Police.
- You may be asked to give a statement to the Police, whether or not you have been arrested.
- When making a statement, you should note the following:
 - Your statement will usually be written in English. If you cannot understand English, you should tell the Police as soon as possible and you will be interviewed in a language you can understand.
 - You are required to tell the truth, but you do not have to say anything which might expose you to a criminal charge.
 - If you have any defence that shows you are innocent, you should tell the Police and make

sure this is written in your statement. Otherwise, if this defence is only raised for the first time in court, the judge may not believe it.

- After giving your statement, read it carefully before signing it to ensure that it records accurately what you told the Police about the case.
- You have the right to amend or delete any part of the statement before you sign it. If you have been arrested and detained, you may do the following:
 - Request to make a call to your family or a lawyer telling them of your arrest.
 - Request visits by your family or a lawyer.
 - Request to consult a lawyer of your choice.
- But these requests may be refused if the Police think it will interfere with their investigation. You should ask for each request to be recorded.
- During your time at the station, you may also:
 - Request food, drink and toilet breaks;
 - If you feel unwell, tell the officer questioning you that you cannot continue or wish to see a doctor; and
 - Ask for each request to be recorded.
- If you are to be charged with an offence, a statement called a "cautioned statement" will be recorded from you.
 - The Police must read to you a notice in writing which will inform you of the charge you are being prosecuted with.
 - You will be cautioned that if you wish to raise any fact in your defence at this stage, you should do it now. Otherwise, if this fact is only raised for the first time in court, the judge may not believe it.
 - If you want to say anything, it will be written down, read back to you in a language you understand, and signed by you.
 - A copy of the charge and cautioned statement will be given to you.

