

**FEDERAL DEFENDER OFFICE
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN
SOUTHERN DIVISION**

CLIENT INFORMATION



We are located at:

**613 Abbott Street, 5th Floor
Detroit, Michigan 48226
(313) 967-5542**

The **Federal Defender Office (FDO)** is a division of the Legal Aid & Defender Association, Inc., a Michigan non-profit corporation. We represent people charged with federal crimes in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan who cannot afford to hire a lawyer. The FDO can only represent you if the court appoints us, based on your financial situation. Once appointed, we work FOR YOU only, and not for the court or prosecutor. Our job is to give you the best representation possible. Our defense team includes investigators, paralegals, research specialists, and legal secretaries who may work with your lawyer on your case.

If there are other defendants in your case, we can only represent one of you. If you qualify for appointed counsel, and the FDO cannot represent you, we will get you a free private lawyer known as a "panel attorney". If we have a conflict with your case (for example, if we previously represented a witness or co-defendant), we will also get you a panel attorney. Panel attorneys are private federal court practitioners who have been specially screened and approved by the U.S. District Court to represent defendants under the Criminal Justice Act.

The FDO lawyer you meet the first day you come to court is responsible for representing all new arrests that day. He/she will speak with you about what will happen that day and see if there is a way to get you out of jail. Later, a supervisor at FDO will assign a permanent lawyer who is best suited for your case. That lawyer will represent you throughout the remainder of your case. You should call the FDO the day following your initial appearance in court to find out the name of your permanent lawyer.

YOU MUST STAY IN CONTACT WITH YOUR LAWYER. The Federal Defender Office is located

at 613 Abbott Street, 5th Floor, Detroit, Michigan 48226. Our telephone number is (313) 967-5542. We accept collect calls. We are open from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday-Friday. You can leave a voice mail message at other times. We cannot call you while you are in jail, but your lawyer will visit you when possible. Because each FDO lawyer has a full caseload, we cannot visit every day. If you are not in custody, you will meet with your lawyer in our office. Please keep all appointments. If you need to reschedule, call your attorney or his/her secretary in advance.

JAIL. If denied bond, you are in the custody of the United States Marshals. By contract, they will keep you at the Wayne County Jail, 570 Clinton Street, Detroit, Michigan 48226. Your inmate number should be on all incoming mail. If you have problems at the jail, let us know and we will ask the U.S. Marshals to look into it. If you have no pending court date(s), you may be moved to the Federal Detention Center at Milan, P.O. Box 1000, Milan, Michigan 48160-1090, or other facilities under contract with the U.S. Marshals. The FDO has no final control over the placement, but can request a lock-up location.

COURT. Your case will be heard in the U.S. District Court. The courthouse is located at 231 W. Lafayette Street in downtown Detroit. The duty courtroom is located on the first floor, next to the snack shop. If you are not in custody, NEVER miss a court appearance or arrive late. If you have a problem with a date, talk to your lawyer ahead of time. You can give up your right to come to many court hearings, but your lawyer must file a written waiver with the court to do so.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW RIGHT AWAY. Do not discuss your case with anyone except your lawyer. When you talk, you make new evidence. Anything said "will be held against you". However,

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 that you want your lawyer present. Do not discuss your case with other inmates, including your cellmate, in any language. The jails are full of informants. Do not discuss your case with friends or family, in any language. Jail phone calls and social visits may be recorded. Other people can be forced to testify about what you say to them. Your own attorney, and people working for him or her, are the only ones you should talk to about your case.

CAUTION: ADVICE FROM FRIENDS OR OTHER INMATES ABOUT YOUR CASE MAY BE WRONG.

Among federal prisoners, there are many false rumors about sentencing deals and other matters. All federal cases are in part governed by the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines, which add or subtract points for different factors of the offense. In other cases, sentences will be dictated by statutory mandatory minimums. Your lawyer can answer all your questions about the charges and the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines.