

Why you are reading this guidebook:

You are probably reading this because you are in trouble with the authorities or concerned you are about to be. We can help.

Our attorneys are former prosecutors with more than 25 years experience. We have handled thousands of felonies, misdemeanors, and traffic infractions.

As you read this guidebook, feel free to contact us with any questions you might have.

The sooner you consult with an attorney, the faster you are on your way to getting the help you need to resolve your case.



MP & B McGuire, Peláez & Bennett PC

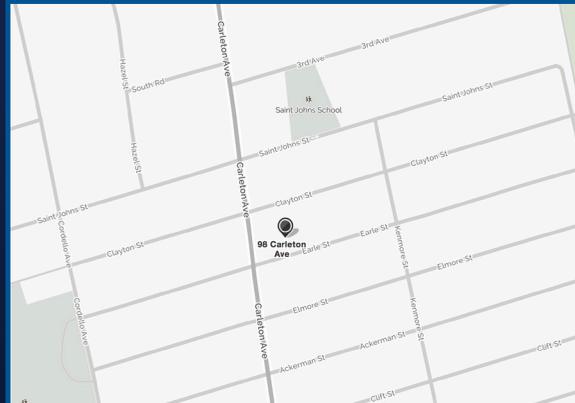
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Our office is open during normal business hours and we have staff available to answer your calls 24 hours a day, seven days a week. In addition, we are available in the early mornings, evenings and weekends by appointment for your convenience.

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Attorney Advertising. Prior results do not guarantee a similar outcome.

This guidebook is for informational purposes. Since individual situations and legal issues vary, it is important to contact an attorney to discuss your specific legal situation.

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Criminal Law:
How to avoid deeper
trouble with the police
and the Courts.

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First Things First:

If you've been arrested or the police want to talk to you, don't make things worse than they already are. Say nothing, except "I have a lawyer and I want to call him now."

You have a constitutional right to remain silent. Exercise it.

If the police want to question you, only give them your name and address. Anything else you tell them will not help you but can only hurt your case.

Police often will tell you if you just admit to things, "it will go easier," "we will put in a good word for you," "we know you didn't mean any harm," etc. They are trying to get you to admit to wrongdoing so they can use your statement against you to make it easier to prove the case against you. Do not fall for this.

Do not consent to a search of your car or home.

Absent special circumstances, the police have no right to search your car or home without a search warrant. Do not permit them to search for something in your car, even if you are not aware of any illegal substances or items in your possession. Someone else may have put them there, and any item found in a car is presumed to belong to all occupants. If the police insist on searching your car, tell them that they do not have your permission; however, do not physically or otherwise interfere with their investigation.

Do not allow the police to search or enter your home without a search warrant. Do not leave your home. Call your lawyer right away.

Once your case is in the Court system, you need a lawyer to protect your rights.

If you've been charged with a felony, a misdemeanor, or a traffic infraction, you are facing consequences that can change your life forever. A criminal charge carries penalties of jail and probation, and a permanent criminal record can keep you from getting a good job or obtaining residency or citizenship. Some traffic infractions can result in the suspension and revocation of your license.

You need a lawyer to fight to protect your rights and to navigate the court system.



**Call our offices immediately at 631-348-1702 and inform us that it is an emergency.
We can be reached 24 hours a day 7 days a week. All consultations are free and confidential.**

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