YOUR FIRST-DAY PLAN

Four priorities.
One step at a time.

Use this sequence as a checklist when it is safe to do so. Follow actual paperwork and court orders over any general timeline.

1. **Get safe. Stay calm.**
   Address urgent medical needs. Follow lawful directions. Do not argue, flee or physically resist. Arrange a safe ride if you cannot lawfully or safely drive.

2. **Use clear words.**
   If questioned about what happened, clearly say that you are remaining silent and want a lawyer. Provide legally required identification and documents. See the script card on the next page.

3. **Keep the record intact.**
   Save notices, citations, messages, photos and receipts. Do not delete or edit evidence. When safe, write a factual timeline for discussion with counsel.

4. **Check dates. Ask for guidance.**
   Read release conditions and all court or MVA paperwork. Put each date in your calendar. Ask a lawyer which steps apply to you and how to share documents securely.

If more than 24 hours have passed

You can still get organized and ask for advice. Do not assume a missed date means there is nothing to do. Tell the lawyer exactly what document you received and when.

Make the call with your paperwork in front of you.

SAVE THIS SCRIPT CARD

Clear words.
Calm delivery.

For questions about an incident. These phrases do not cancel lawful directions or required identification duties.

"I am exercising my right to remain silent."

"I want a lawyer before answering questions about what happened."

"I do not consent to a search."

"Am I free to leave?"

Keep these limits with the card

Give legally required identification and documents. Do not lie, obstruct or physically resist. If you are not free to leave, do not walk away. Police may have lawful grounds to search without your consent or a warrant. Refusing consent does not guarantee that a search will stop.

Questioning and testing are different

Asking for a lawyer does not create an unlimited delay or veto over testing. DUI testing rules are separate. Keep all testing and license paperwork and ask for case-specific guidance. When counsel must be provided depends on the situation.

Save the number beside this card: 410.268.5515.

FOR A FAMILY MEMBER OR FRIEND

Be the calm point of contact.

Useful help is often practical: finding the person, preserving paperwork and making the next call.

HELP WITH THIS

Confirm the person's name and location. Find out what paperwork is available. Keep a list of known court dates. Arrange safe transport, childcare or other immediate needs when appropriate. Ask the firm how to share documents.

AVOID THIS

Do not post a public account of the incident. Do not delete messages or ask anyone to change a story. Do not contact witnesses or an alleged victim about the case. Do not bypass release or no-contact conditions.

A useful opening for the call

"I am calling to help someone who was arrested or charged in Maryland. Their location is ____. The papers list ____. The next date we know about is ____. What should we gather for a consultation?"

Protect the conversation

Do not assume jail calls, texts, family conversations or this worksheet are confidential or legally privileged. Ask the lawyer how the client should communicate and what information you should provide.

One manageable task

Keep one folder for papers and one list of dates. You do not need to solve the case tonight.

Calling for someone else? Start with location, paperwork and dates.