 Client Interview Questions

**Circumstances of the Arrest**

1. First Interview
   1. When were you arrested?
   2. Where were you arrested?
   3. Who arrested you?
   4. Were you informed of the reason for your arrest?
   5. Did you understand the reason for your arrest?
2. At the time of your arrest, were you shown an arrest warrant or summons?
3. Were you able to read and understand the arrest warrant?
4. Were you provided a copy of the warrant or summons?
5. Were you informed of your legal rights?
6. Was your family or work unit notified of the reasons for your detainment and of the place of custody within 24 hours of your detainment?

k. Was anyone else arrested at the same time you were? If so, do you know their names, addresses and telephone numbers and how to contact their family members? Do you know what offenses they were charged with?

1. Search and Seizure
   1. Were you strip-searched?
   2. What has been taken from your person?
   3. Were any of your clothes seized? Were any articles taken from your clothes?
   4. Were any of your bodily fluids or hairs taken for testing?
   5. Was a search conducted at the place of your arrest?
   6. Was a search conducted at your residence?
   7. Was a search conducted at your workplace?
   8. Do you know of any other people or places that were searched? If so, what are the people’s names, addresses and telephone numbers? What are the addresses of the places searched, and what types of places are they (e.g., residences, workplaces)?
   9. Did you see the police or investigators seize any evidence?
   10. What objects were seized?
   11. Was there a search warrant, and did you see it? Did you understand it?
   12. Were there any witnesses present at the time of the search? If so, what are their names, addresses and telephone numbers?
   13. Was the search recorded? Did the investigators sign it? Did you sign it? Did anyone else sign it? Did anyone refuse to sign it, and if so, why?
   14. Did the investigators make a detailed list and duplicate copy of the articles and documents seized at the scene? Did they give a copy of the list to the owner of the seized items?
2. Interrogation
   1. What was said to you at the time of your arrest?
   2. What was said to you after your arrest?
   3. Were you interrogated within 24 hours after your arrest?
   4. Who interrogated you? How many people interrogated you?
   5. Who initiated the conversation with you?
   6. How did you respond to them?
   7. What was your state of mind at the time?
   8. Were your statements recorded?
   9. Did you write your statement yourself?
   10. Were you allowed to adequately review and modify your statements?
   11. Were you allowed to write down your opinions?
   12. Have your co-defendants been interrogated? If so, do you know what they said about you?
3. Requests for legal aid and family
   1. Did you ask for a legal defender?
   2. Did anyone inform you that you could have a legal defender?
   3. When were you informed that you could have a legal defender?
   4. After your arrest, did you request to see a family member, friend or co-worker?
   5. Have you seen your family members, friends, or co-workers after the arrest?
   6. Was your family notified of the circumstances and the place where you were being held within 24 hours of your detention and arrest?
4. Detention
   1. Describe the place where you were detained after your arrest.
   2. How many public security officers were present during your arrest?
   3. Were any compulsory measures taken against you before your interrogation?
   4. Were you threatened with physical abuse during and after the arrest?
   5. Were you treated with violence during or after the arrest?
   6. Were you verbally abused or threatened during and after the arrest?

1. Information about the alleged victim
   1. Do you know the alleged victim? If so, describe your relationship with the alleged victim.
   2. Do you know the alleged victim’s name, age, address, telephone number, and vocation? Does he have a criminal record?
   3. Has the alleged victim been physically or mentally injured? If so, what type of injuries and how serious are the injuries? Has the alleged victim recovered? Has the alleged victim suffered any property damage? If so, tell me about the nature and the extent of damage.
   4. Has the alleged victim received any compensation? If so, when, how much and who paid the compensation?
   5. What are your feelings towards the alleged victim?

7. Information about the co-defendants

1. Do you know the co-defendants? If so, describe your relationship with them.
2. What are the names, ages, addresses, telephone numbers, vocations and criminal histories of the co-defendants?
3. Do you know whether the alleged co-defendants have been arrested? If so, do you know what items, if any, were seized from them?
4. Do you know what statements, if any, the co-defendants made about you? What is your response to their version of events?

**The Criminal Charges**

1. Do you understand the nature of the criminal charges against you?
2. Do you understand the legal meanings of the charges?
3. Do you understand the defenses you might have to the charges?
4. Is there anyone who can attest that they were with you at the time of the crime, but away from the scene of the crime? If so, what is their name, address and telephone number?
5. What part of the charges do you believe to be inaccurate?
6. Is there anyone else who was charged or who should be charged? If so, what are their names, addresses and telephone numbers? How would you describe their involvement in the case?

**Quick Investigation**

1. Who should I contact? What are their names, addresses and phone numbers?
2. Are there any witnesses I should talk with? If so, can you give me their names, addresses and telephone numbers? What information do you think they might be able to provide? Do you think they are credible?
3. Is there any evidence that must be secured? If so, can you tell me what it is and where I can find it? Do you know whether it has already been seized?

**In order to prevent unnecessary trouble or risks, we advise the lawyer to avoid the following actions and behavior during the interview:**

* + - 1. To leak information about the case to the client, including information relating to written accusations and exposure;
      2. To instigate the client to lie about his part in the case;
      3. To lend your own cellphone to the client;
      4. To give material articles to the client in private;
      5. To bring a non-lawyer or the client’s family members when meeting the client.