



Arrest & Court Solidarity & Support

~ on the street, at the jails &
at the courthouse ~

(or, bein' there for your friends once they've been arrested and when they get out of jail)

So, your friend(s) are being arrested. You know jail sucks and want to help them from the outside as much as you can. The following is a guide with steps you can take to: 1) keep track of them once they've been grabbed, 2) find your way around the courthouse so you can identify, talk to and maybe even push their lawyer to help you and them, and 3) be there for them when they get out. The legal system is designed to break us down and dehumanize us. Using our voices inside the courthouse, identifying our allies in the process (like PDS lawyers), and showing solidarity can be effective ways to resist the "criminal justice" system. Good Luck!

I. Solidarity After They've Been Arrested – On the Street

If your friend(s) are being arrested and taken away (and there are no other options), try to find out from officers or legal observers on the scene:

- ✓ where they're being taken,
- ✓ what their charges are, and
- ✓ if you can still see your friend(s), ask them if there's anyone they'd like you to call, and if they are ok.

II. Once They've Been taken Away - Find Them!

After you know they've left the scene (i.e. someone has seen them in the paddy wagon or cop car, being driven to the precinct):

Call the precinct and confirm that they are there. They will want to know the time/date/place of arrest. You do not need to tell them your friend's names. It is good if you can describe what they look like/what they were wearing and the arresting officer's name, if you have it.

If they can confirm that they are there, you can ask them the following questions (they may not answer any of them):

- ✓ What are their charges and how long they will be held?

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- ✓ When will they be transferred to central cell block and when will they be appearing in court? (They may be cited out instead of transferred to court. This means that they'll be released from the precinct.)
- ✓ Would it help to have a friend or lawyer go to the precinct?
- ✓ Does your friend need his/her ID or money?
- ✓ Would a lawyer be allowed to visit them in the holding cell?

Make sure to get the name of the officer you talk to and write down exactly what they say.

✪ **If you know your friend is having a particularly tough time OR if they are at a higher risk** (e.g. prior arrests, a person of color, queer or transgendered, a person with a disability) you can call the Justice and Solidarity Collective or the local National Lawyers Guild office and we may be able to find a lawyer to visit them or advocate on their behalf.

If they cannot confirm that they are there, ask them if they would have been taken anywhere else, call those stations. Keep calling until you find them.

III. Solidarity at the Station

If your friend is going to be cited out, try to be at the precinct – **take food, cigarettes if they smoke, dry or extra clothes** if it was raining or was cold when they were arrested. Ideally you would have talked to folks before the action and will know if they needed you to call their folks or a boss.

They will get a piece of paper listing a court date. That date will be an Arraignment (where they will be expected to enter their plea to the charges). It will likely be at least a few weeks away.

Your friend can use the info below to **make sure they have a lawyer prior to their arraignment** date. The same offices at the courthouse discussed below are the places to go to ask questions about being assigned a court-appointed lawyer and filling out any necessary application forms.

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IV. Solidarity at the Courthouse

If your friend is going to be transferred to central booking this means that they will be transferred to the main DC court house at some point during the night or early the next morning. They will have a **'presentment'** before a judge who will likely set an arraignment date, and if there are no pending warrants and they are not deemed a flight risk, released. It can be important to try to talk to their lawyer before they appear before the judge, and it can be even more important to be there with food, clothes, and loads of love when they get out.

Things to Know About Going to the Courthouse

- ❖ The courthouse is at 500 Indiana Ave – the Carl J Moultrie building. It is accessible via metro on the Judiciary Square (red line) stop or the Navy Archives (green line) stop. It is not always easy to find parking, so give yourselves plenty of time if you drive.
- ❖ Be prepared to be there at 9 in the morning. Note: Even though you're there at 9, the judge is not likely to appear in the courtroom until 11. This gives you 2 hours to try to find your friend's court-appointed lawyer, make sure the lawyer talks to your friend and passes on any messages, and that you pass on any info to the court/lawyer/police that might get your friend out of jail faster.
- ❖ When you arrive at court you will have to go through security. They will not let you in with a leatherperson, pocket knife or a camera. It might be good to leave them in the car, at home, or if you forget, you can always try the bushes.
- ❖ Do consider bringing a notebook, pen, anything your friend might need such as cash, their ID, parent's phone numbers if they are a juvenile, clothes, proof of employment, local reference phone numbers, etc.

1. Arriving at the Courthouse – Getting your Bearings

Once you're through security you'll see a set of escalators. Go down two floors to the bottom level of the building. You'll see a **cafeteria** on your left and a long hallway on your right. Other things to notice: the **ATM machine** that's between the escalators on this floor, and the **lawyer's lounge** across from the cafeteria in room C175.

2. Finding your Friend's Info - the Lock-Up List

Turn right at the bottom of the elevators. There will be a sitting area with a cork board and several sheets of paper tacked to it. This is the lock-up list. **Check the lock-up**

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list for your friend's name and information. If they refused to give their name they will appear as a Jane or John Doe (the police determine the arrestee's sex). If the lock-up lists are not on the board, you can go down to the US Marshall Cell Block office (the last door on the left) and ask them if they have the list.

If they are listed check for and **write down** the following: the **arrest #**, docket #, **PDID #** (listed with: sex /race / d.o.b.), and their **lock-up #**.

3. Finding their Lawyer

Take this info and **head to the Criminal Justice Act Program office** in room C215 (it's down the hall, first door on your right from the seating area). Here you will **try to find your friend's court appointed lawyer**.

Go up to the desk and tell them why you're there. Give them the info you took off the lock-up list. Say you'd like to talk to their lawyer. The lawyer will most likely not be in the office. You can leave a message saying that you would like to talk to them about your friend, describe yourself and leave a cell phone number if you have one (note: you can't have your cell phone on in the courtroom, so keep an eye on it with the volume off if you're awaiting a return call from a lawyer). Also, ask if they know where the lawyer is, what they look like and what they're wearing that day.

You can also **check the cafeteria, the lawyer's lounge and the 1st two rows in the courtroom** for the lawyer.

If you find the lawyer you'll want to introduce yourself, double-check the charges, answer any questions the lawyer has for you and ask them to go back and visit your friend BEFORE the presentment. You can ask them to pass on any messages (it is always good to hear that there are friends waiting on the outside for you), find out if they are ok, and let the lawyer know if there are any special circumstances they should be aware of.

Other things you may want to ask / bring up or mention to the lawyer depending on the situation include: "I have a local address that I can provide to facilitate the release of my friend who is from out of town," OR "I have family contact info for my friend who is a juvenile," OR "I'd be willing to sign an affidavit to the court taking responsibility for my friend to further facilitate release," OR "Should I fill out the Pre-trial Services form with my friend's info in order to facilitate release?"

If your friend is charged with a misdemeanor they will likely be appointed a Criminal Justice Act lawyer (CJA). These are private practice lawyers that are paid by the city to represent folks. Some of these lawyers are friendly and sympathetic, others are not. If they were charged with a **felony** they will be appointed a public defender. These lawyers are great!!!

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Note: If your friend is assigned a **CJA Lawyer**, his / her name & number should be listed on the Lock-Up List with your friend's other info. Give them a call and let them know who you are & to keep an eye out for you.

If your friend has not been assigned a lawyer you'll want to go to pre-trial services in room C103. Give them the info you have for your friend from the lock-up list and tell them your friend needs a lawyer. NOTE: If your friend **DOES NOT appear on the lock-up** list, these are also the people to go to. Tell them what you were told at the percent, who told it to you, and find out what they know.

4. Pre-Trial Services – Giving More Info to Get them Out Faster

Once you've found or tried to find the lawyer, **go next door to the other pre-trial services agency room**, C225. There will likely be police in this room. Approach the desk, give them the same lock-up info and ask for the information form. This form allows you to give them info about your friend that will help them get out faster. You should not have to fill it out on the spot. ***Do not fill in any information that you are not sure your friend would not want you to share!*** You can wait and check with their lawyer before you fill it in. Note: This is one of the key questions you may want to ask your friend's lawyer.

5. The Courtroom & Release

Once you've found the lawyer you can also **find out where your friend will be presented**. Most people are released from C10. Folks with traffic charges, or juveniles, will be released from a courtroom upstairs. If you can't find the lawyer, the pre-trial services agency clerks in room C103 may be able to tell you where to wait. Also, the first two rows of the courtroom are reserved for attorneys. Many of them know each other. You can approach anyone sitting in those rows and ask if they know the lawyer you are looking for. They may be able to point you in the right direction or notify you when the lawyer you are looking for arrives.

When you're in the courtroom you will be asked to remain silent. Often they will not allow you to read. Marshall's will not hesitate to ask you to leave a courtroom. It may take 5 minutes; you may be waiting until 3 or 4pm, with a lunch break around 2.

When they are released:

- ✓ Make sure to talk to the lawyer again. Ask any questions you have then and hold onto any papers they are given.
- ✓ Pull out the food, clothes, cigarettes and wipe the tears from your eyes. Check in with your friend to make sure they are ok. Remember that being arrested and

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spending time in jail can be traumatic. Check out the DC JS Demonstration Support Manual's Health and Safety Tips and the section on Critical Incident Stress. Please don't hesitate to call us if you think your friend needs help. We can try to hook you up with medics.

- ✓ Reward yourself for doing great support and your friend for making it through the system.

Nothing is more important than your friend's emotional and physical well-being when they've just gotten out of jail! However, in the hours and days following release, assisting them with the process of making sure that they'll **have a lawyer they like** or an **attorney-advisor** if they'd like to represent themselves by **going pro se** can be another vital component of doing support.

Confusing lingo note: it's used to describe different court appearances. **Knowing what each can mean is more important than what each is called. Here is some more info.** We talk about the different occasions when you go before a judge in the info above. These different times before him or her have different names and some are used interchangeably.

- ✓ If you are presented before a judge before being released from police custody, this is a release hearing (this can be formally called your arraignment OR informally called a presentment).
- ✓ If you are presented before a judge before being released from police custody, this is a release hearing (this can be formally called your arraignment OR informally called a presentment).
- ✓ If you are presented before a judge before being released from police custody and given a court date to return, that return hearing is where you enter your plea to the charges against you. (this can be formally called your Status Hearing OR informally referred to as your arraignment). Please Note: sometime that first date can also be your Trial so you must make sure that you know which it will be BEFORE you leave!!
- ✓ If you are released directly from police custody WITHOUT seeing a judge, you will be expected to enter your plea the first time you see the judge (everybody calls this one your arraignment)

⊛ **Note:** This doc contains suggestions only - ways we have provided support in the past. We'd love feedback. Please let us know if we can help or how the experience was for you!

Schedule Information for C10 (the presentment / arraignment courtroom for everyone EXCEPT Juveniles & folks w/ traffic charges):

⊛ **Note:** The most we can say about the accuracy of the schedule info below, is that it was accurate on Saturday, November 27, 2004. (Nothing here is intended to trump the **General Rule** that it is a **good idea to arrive at 9am to do support for a held friend scheduled for presentment.**)

SCHEDULE

- ✓ Monday/Wednesday/Friday = 1 pm start-time
- ✓ Tuesday/Thursday/Saturday = 11 am start-time
- ✓ Holidays = 10:30 am start-time
- ✓ Tuesday / Thursday → citations start at 11 am

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- ✓ No Citations on Monday/Wednesday/Friday
- ✓ Lock-up list posted at 10:15
- ✓ Prisoner interviews begin at 10:30am

These steps provided by the D.C. Justice and Solidarity Collective.
We do not operate as lawyers. We do not give out legal advice. We do want to change the world.

Love and Solidarity, DC J&S, (202) 544-8611
info@justiceandsolidarity.org, www.justiceandsolidarity.org

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IMPORTANT NUMBERS and CONTACT INFO

Note: This list was last updated for 2005 INAUGURATION ACTIONS

DC Justice & Solidarity Collective:

202-544-8611

We love you!! We drafted this doc so that folks could do this work with or without us.

If you're reviewing this while planning: give us a call with questions, for support, for encouragement, or to suggest better ways to do this work if you have any.

If the day of an action and you're in the midst of doing street support: We love you & know you are doing a kick ass job!!! Call the number that was designated for your action!!!!

If you're in a crunch and want to reach us: Know that our number usually runs to a voice mail (which is checked regularly) EXCEPT when use of the number as a activist support hotline has been pre-arranged!!!

Police:

Police Information (non-emergency):		311
Public Information:		727-4383
Mayor:		727-2980
Chief of Staff:		727-2643
First District:	415 4 th Street, SW	727-4644
Substation:	500 E Street, SE	727-4660
Second District:	3320 Idaho Ave., NW	282-0070
Note:	off Wisconsin Avenue above Massachusetts, NW	
Third District:	1624 V Street, NW	673-6815 673-6930
Fourth District:	6001 Georgia Ave., NW	576-6745
Fifth District:	1805 Bladensburg Rd., NE	727-4510
Sixth District:	100 42 nd Street, NE	727-4520 727-4958
Substation:	2701 Pennsylvania Ave., SE	727-3622
Seventh District:	2455 Alabama Ave., SE	698-1500

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DC Police / Courts (Other):

Blue Plains	4665 Blue Plains Dr., SE	645-0055
Note: Training Academy sometimes used for mass arrest processing. Located off Pennsylvania Ave. SE		
Police Headquarters:	300 Indiana Ave, NW	727-2713
Central Cellblock:	300 Indiana Ave., NW	727-4222
(located at Police Headquarters)		
US Marshal:		616-8581
Central ROC	501 New York Ave., NW	727-2894
Special Operations Division		727-4641
Note: in-charge of permitted demos		
US Capitol Police		
Headquarters:	119 D Street, NE	228-2800
US Park Police	1100 Ohio Dr., SW	619-7105
Note: No holding facility		
DC Superior Court		879-1010
5 th & Indiana Avenue, NW		
Judiciary Square Metro Stop – red line.		
Note: Arraignments held in C-10		
Pre-Trial Services		585-7030

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