



O'Donnell, Weiss & Mattei, P.C.

Do I Need a Criminal Attorney?

A criminal attorney represents the best interests of the client (the defendant) at every stage of a criminal proceeding from the preliminary hearing in front of the local Magisterial District Justice, up to, and including, a jury trial in the county's Court of Common Pleas.

It goes without saying that if you have been arrested or are otherwise charged with a criminal offense, you need a criminal attorney. This is the most typical and obvious circumstance requiring representation, as a violation or an alleged violation of the law triggers the need for a criminal attorney. In no other aspect of law is it as clear when you need representation than when you have been arrested. This theme is echoed by the Miranda warnings that police officers issue to criminal suspects when they say, "you have the right to an attorney."

However, many people make the mistake of not obtaining a criminal attorney for instances other than being arrested. A perfect example of this is a motor vehicle violation. Whether you feel embarrassed or believe that you can handle the matter yourself, there is always a risk of having points placed on your driving record, or a suspension of driving privileges, in addition to fines. A criminal attorney can help mitigate such exposure by either negotiating with the police officer or defending your rights at a summary trial in front of the local Magisterial District Justice.

Due to media exposure, many people feel they have a very general understanding of the criminal process from what is depicted in movies and in courtroom dramas on television. Beware, however, as this is merely fiction and in no way prepares anyone for what truly happens. Protect yourself or your loved one, and contact a criminal attorney as soon as possible regardless of the nature or degree of the criminal offense in question.

***Call today and talk to one of our criminal attorneys
(610) 323-2800***