



## Want to Know More?

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## What to Expect From a Grand Jury Investigation

If you have been subpoenaed by a grand jury, the first thing you must try to do is ascertain your status. Your criminal defense attorney can help shed some light on where you stand.

### Targets of Indictment

If you are a potential defendant, you typically are subject to significant investigation; you must be careful and initiate a defense strategy as soon as possible.



### Witnesses

Most witnesses are free from suspicion of any criminal activity and all that is required is truthful and forthright testimony.

### Subjects

The prosecution may decide to bring an indictment after completing its investigation, but may not. Often, the prosecution will use a subject as leverage against a more culpable target, and whether the subject is indicted or not may well depend on how well he or she co-operated.

## Reasons You May Plead Guilty

Entering a guilty plea is not to be done lightly, but there are circumstances where it may be advantageous.



### Fast Track Issues

Crowded dockets can make for anxious prosecutors, which can mean a more generous plea offer than may be available later. You must be certain that there are no defenses available before accepting the deal.

### Co-defendants

If there are multiple parties involved, you can be fairly sure the prosecution will seek an opportunity to have each testify against the other(s). It should come as no surprise that the best deal will go to the first defendant to cooperate.

### Inability to Make Bail

If you cannot make bail, it can be tempting to take the prosecution's plea offer and move on with the punishment phase, which may be probation. Be careful, however, that you can comply with the terms of probation.

# The Known (and Not So Known) Consequences of a Guilty Plea

Once your sentence is complete, be certain you understand the impact that guilty plea will have on resuming your regular life.

## As an Immigrant

If you are not a citizen, you need to be aware if the offense you are charged with is a deportable one; citizens cannot be deported.

## As a Voter

Many states further penalize those convicted of a felony by disenfranchisement; some permanently and some for a period of years.

## As an Employee

Convictions of any sort can be problematic for future employment, especially for those with a professional license. Additionally, the nature of the offense may be an issue as well; such as a theft offense being viewed negatively by potential bank employers.

## As a Recipient of Public Benefits

A conviction may affect:

1. Federal housing
2. Federal student loans
3. Government assistance, including food stamps

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Your case is important to us. If we can't help you, we'll do our best to refer you to someone who can.

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