

MY LEGAL SITUATION

My CHARGE is...

Date I was ARRESTED _____

The maximum PENALTY OR SENTENCE if I am found GUILTY is...

I am accused of...

My LAWYERS name is...

I need to talk to my lawyer about ...

** Always tell your lawyer the FULL story of what you are accused of. Do not lie. Tell your attorney whether you did the crime. Your attorney is on your side.

COURTROOM BEHAVIOR

- Take all medications as your doctor has prescribed. Do not stop taking your medication.
- Behave appropriately in court
 - Be Polite
 - Listen
 - Sit quietly
 - Be well-mannered
 - Do not lie
- Dress nicely for court
 - Make sure you are clean
 - Comb your hair
 - Wear clean clothes- a clean shirt and clean pants (no holes or stains)
 - Wear shoes, no flip flops
- Whisper to your attorney if you need to speak to him or her during the trial
- Three coping skills to use if I become upset or frustrated in court:

- Only speak when your attorney tells you to speak during the trial



ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF

MENTAL HEALTH

**COMPETENCY RESTORATION
PROGRAM**

REVIEW GUIDE

Name: _____

This guide is for defendants and covers key information that can help prepare you for your forensic evaluation or for court.

To help you prepare for your evaluation or for court, this brochure will cover the following:

1. Be aware of your current situation and needs,
2. Be aware of current events,
3. Understand your legal situation,
4. Remember the courtroom procedures, and
5. Practice how you should behave in court. Not behaving properly in court can be Contempt of Court and delay your proceedings.

YOUR CURRENT SITUATION

The JUDGE ordered me for mental health treatment because...

I have been diagnosed with a mental illness:

_____ NO

_____ YES; My diagnosis is _____

For those diagnosed with a mental health condition, my mental health symptoms are...

I take medication that I am prescribed:

_____ NO

_____ YES; My medications are...

CURRENT EVENTS

I need to know a little bit about what is happening in the news.

- What kinds of things are in the news?

- Who is the President of the United States?

- What kinds of things happen on the program each day?

- What kinds of activities or groups do I participate in?

COURTROOM PROCEDURES

What is a CRIME? When someone breaks the law.

Who is the DEFENDANT? You, the accused person.

What is a TRIAL? Takes place in front of a judge and is a chance to prove that you are innocent. One side wants to win and to see the other side lose.

What does a JUDGE do? He/she is in charge of the courtroom.

What does the JURY do? Listens to the case to decide a verdict.

Who is the DEFENSE ATTORNEY? A lawyer representing the DEFENDANT. My lawyer wants me to be found NOT GUILTY.

Who is the DISTRICT ATTORNEY (DA)? A lawyer representing the State. The DA wants me (the defendant) to be found GUILTY.

What is EVIDENCE? Facts about the case.

What is a WITNESS? Someone who talks about what they know about the crime.

What are the types of PLEAS? Telling the court that you are 1) Guilty, 2) Not Guilty, or 3) Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity (NGRI).

What is a PLEA BARGAIN? Pleading GUILTY to take a deal, getting a lesser charge or sentence.

What is a VERDICT? Jury's decision about whether someone is GUILTY or NOT GUILTY.

Who in the courtroom is on my side?

Who in the courtroom is not on my side?

