

- If you do not agree with the facts, tell the Court.
- You may be able to change your guilty plea to not guilty depending on the facts you disagree with.
- If you agree with the facts the case will continue.
- You will be asked to explain why the court should be merciful when sentencing you.\*
- The Court will then sentence you.

## What happens if I plead not guilty?

- Ask for your papers.
- Ask to be released on bail to go home
- Another date for you to come to the Court will be given.
- Try and talk to a lawyer or your family.
- Keep your papers safe.
- On the next Court date bring your parents or guardian and supportive family members.
- Bring any witnesses when the Court tells you to.
- If the Prosecution wants to change the hearing date, you may object.

## What punishment can the juvenile court give?

- A discharge (*this means that the case is dismissed*).
- Order you to pay fine, compensation or costs.
- Order your parents or guardian to pay a fine, compensation or costs.
- Order your parents or guardian to secure your good behavior.
- Make an order placing you in the care of a suitable adult.
- Make a detention order for you.
- Make a probation order for you. A probation order is when you are set free but you will be supervised by a Court appointed official.
- Make an order for your release upon your entering a bond to appear and receive a sentence when called upon.

## About the Public Solicitor's Office

The Public Solicitor's Office is an independent public office established under the Constitution to provide legal aid, advice and assistance to persons in need. Please ask at our offices for the circumstances and conditions of how we can assist you with your legal problems.

### Honiara Office

Placemakers Building,  
P.O. Box 553  
Honiara, Solomon Islands.  
☎ 22348/28404/28405/28406

### Lata Office

☎ 53004

### Kirakira Office

☎ 50153

### Auki Office

(within the precincts of  
the Auki Magistrate's Court)  
PO BOX Auki 44  
☎ 40008/40006

### Munda Office

☎ 6204

✉ [pubsol@pso.gov.sb](mailto:pubsol@pso.gov.sb)

### Gizo Office

(next to the Gizo Magistrate's Court)  
PO BOX Gizo 84  
☎ 60682

## Honiara Legal Clinics Timetable

### Family Legal Clinic

Tuesdays  
9.00am to 12.00noon

### Criminal Legal Clinic

Thursdays Wednesdays  
2.00pm to 4.00pm

### Civil Legal Clinic

Wednesdays  
2.00pm to 4.00pm

### Land Legal Clinic

Fridays  
9.00am to 12.00noon

**Legal Clinic for People with Disabilities, every Thursday on a fortnightly basis from 9am to 1pm. People with Disabilities Solomon Islands (PWDSI) Office, DSE Building, New China Town.**

**Australian Aid** 



# YOUNG PERSON'S RIGHTS



Information about your rights and responsibilities from the...

**PSO** PUBLIC SOLICITOR'S OFFICE



## Juvenile Justice

Everyone under 18 years of age has special rights if they are arrested by the Police. This brochure will help you if you ever come into conflict with the law.

## Legal Terms explained

Legal or technical words/phrases written in bold in the text of this brochure are defined in this section.

- **Charge** – a formal allegation or notice that a person has committed an offence.
- **Commit an offence** – a breach of the criminal law; an illegal act.
- **Interviewing Officer** – a police officer who interviews a person suspected of having committed an offence.
- **Magistrate** – a judicial officer or person who administers the law or decides cases in the Magistrate's Court which mostly deals with less serious offences.
- **Search warrant** – a legal document authorising a Police officer or other official to enter and search premises.
- **Summons** – an official notice that your attendance is required at court at a specific time and date.

## Who is a juvenile?

A juvenile is anyone under the age of 18.

## What you can do when you are arrested?

Ask the Police to contact your parents, guardian or social welfare officer before they question you.

Apart from your name and address, you do not have to give any information to the Police if you do not want to.

You should contact your lawyer or a lawyer from the Public Solicitor's Office.

## What are your rights when you are charged?

- You must be kept separate from any adult suspect.
- The Police must give you a document stating the date and time that you are to appear in court.
- After you are charged the police should release you.
- If you are charged with a grave offence you may be held in custody.
- If you are held in custody you must be taken to court without any unnecessary delay.

## Who should go to court with you?

- Your lawyer if you have one.
- Your parents or guardian.
- Your relatives.
- Your social welfare officer.
- Any other adult you trust.

## Who will be in the court?

- The Magistrate.
- The Court Officer.
- The Prosecutor.
- Your Lawyer.
- Your parents or guardian.
- Your relatives.
- Your social welfare officer.
- General members of the public are not permitted.

## What will happen in court?

- The charge will be read to you in a language you understand.
- You will be asked whether you understand the charge.
- You will then be asked to plead guilty or not guilty.
- If you are not sure, ask the Court for more time to think about your plea.
- Ask for your papers relating to the case.
- These papers will include your caution interview statement, witness statements and any other papers the Police have.
- If you are appearing under custody, ask for bail.
- Try and talk to a lawyer about your case.

## What happens if I plead guilty?

- If you plead guilty it means you admit to committing the offence.
- If the matter is reconcilable (common assault or any personal or private matter) the Court may ask you to consider reconciling with the other party.
- The Prosecutor will read out the facts.



**DISCLAIMER:** The information displayed on this page is provided for information purposes only and does not constitute legal advice. If you have a legal problem, you should see a lawyer.