

Criminal Justice Quiz

How much do you know about your rights?

BY FRED DAHR

With criminal justice issues in the news daily, you might be under the impression that you have a good grasp on your basic constitutional rights. But the reality might surprise you. Take a minute to test the accuracy of what you think you know, and dedicate the facts to memory.

- 1) If a police officer asks for your name, when must you disclose it?
 - A. Anytime an officer asks.
 - B. If the officer has reasonable suspicion of criminal activity, and your state has a “stop and identify” law.
 - C. If you are in a public place.
- 2) A police officer may approach you and ask you questions at any time. True or false?
- 3) If you are stopped for a traffic violation, can a police officer order you to exit your car?
 - A. Yes, absolutely.
 - B. No, unless the officer has probable cause that you committed a crime.
- 4) When is a Miranda warning required?
 - A. When a person is detained.
 - B. When a person is arrested.
 - C. When a person is arrested and the officer questions him or her about a crime.
- 5) When can police search your car?
 - A. If the officer impounds the vehicle and searches it pursuant to policy.
 - B. If the officer has probable cause to believe the car contains evidence of a crime.
 - C. If the officer asks you for permission, and you agree.
 - D. All of the above.
- 6) When must a court appoint a lawyer to represent a defendant?
 - A. If the defendant is facing a felony charge.
 - B. If the defendant is facing a misdemeanor or felony charge and the defendant cannot make bail.
 - C. If the defendant is facing a charge punishable by confinement and cannot afford an attorney regardless of whether he or she makes bail.
- 7) At a minimum, the Sixth Amendment’s right to counsel means that a defendant’s lawyer must:
 - A. Conduct an independent investigation of the state’s case.
 - B. Properly advise the defendant about the law.
 - C. Investigate evidence that might lessen the defendant’s punishment.
 - D. All of the above.
- 8) Under the Constitution, a defendant is entitled to a copy of the police report regarding his case. True or false?
- 9) When can police search your home?
 - A. Only with a warrant.
 - B. If another person who lives at the home consents—even if you object.
 - C. All of the above.
- 10) When you ask a person to disclose whether he or she is an undercover police officer, he or she must answer truthfully. True or false?
- 11) What must a prosecutor disclose to the defense?
 - A. Nothing. We have an adversarial system, and the prosecutor has no duty to the defendant.
 - B. Any evidence showing that the defendant is innocent.
 - C. Any evidence that could be used to contradict a government witness.
 - D. Any evidence that might lessen the defendant’s punishment.
 - E. B, C, and D.
- 12) During an interrogation, police are allowed to lie to you, such as pretending that they have your fingerprints at the crime scene. True or false?
- 13) Which of the following is *not* a Sixth Amendment right?
 - A. Right to a jury trial.
 - B. Right to force witnesses to come to court.
 - C. Right to appeal a conviction.
 - D. Right to have a competent lawyer represent you.

ANSWERS

- 1) B 2) True; however, if you are not detained, you can leave.
3) A 4) C 5) D 6) C 7) D
8) False. While some states require prosecutors to provide the offense report as part of their discovery rules, there is no constitutional right to a copy.
9) C 10) False 11) E 12) True 13) C **TBJ**



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