

JAIL SUPPORT AT ARREST

Legal support crews
NLG: (212) 679-6018
MACC Legal: (646) 918-1207

- Look to see the arresting NYPD precinct or unit– it will be on the cop’s vehicle and uniform. If there are mass arrests at a large protest, arrestees may be taken to the precinct at 1 Police Plaza in Manhattan.
- Contact the protest’s legal support crew with arrestee’s legal name, birthdate, and the arresting precinct. The legal support crew can help track the arrestee in the system and connect to a lawyer.
- If you think there will be more arrests, hang tight; if you don’t, then head to the precinct to do jail support.

TO THE PRECINCT

- When you arrive at the precinct, someone can go inside the precinct and, with the arrestees’ info, ask the cops: 1) the arrest number (helps track the person in the system), 2) the charge(s), and 3) if the arrestee will be taken to a central booking. The cops may be difficult – persistence and tactical politeness can help get the information you’re looking for. Let the legal support crew know what you find out. If you are at 1 Police Plaza for mass arrests, the cops do not provide this info, so you may be a bit in the dark.
- Now you wait outside the precinct :-/ Processing can take 6+ hours - even longer for mass arrests. People can bring/grab items for arrestees when they are released (like hand sanitizer, masks, gloves, water, food, aspirin, gum, and cigarettes), as well as for people doing jail support. External batteries are also helpful. Reach out to other jail support people to rotate on shifts and bring items.
- Arrestees may be released from the precinct. Take the contact info of arrestees and a picture of their summons or Desk Appearance Ticket and relay it to the legal support crew.

IF ARRAIGNED

- Alternatively they may be taken to bookings and be arraigned. If this is the case, head to Central Bookings in the borough they were arrested in with supplies:

Manhattan: 100 Centre Street, (212) 374-3838

Brooklyn: 120 Schermerhorn Street, (718) 875-6319

Bronx: 215 E 161 Street, (718) 590-281

Queens: 125-01 Queens Blvd, 718-298-0736 (arraignments line, central booking # N/A)

Staten Island: 78 Richmond Terrace, 718-876-8490

- Arraignments, procedural court hearings to file charges, happen 7 days a week, 8/ 9 am - 1 am. Find the arraignment schedule; if you don’t see the arrestee, ask the arraignment clerk.

- The court will have a public defender for the arrestee at arraignment. Have 1-2 friendly faces in the arraignment courtroom bleachers when your friend goes up for arraignment. *Note: During the COVID-19 pandemic, the arraignment will happen virtually and broadcast on a giant TV facing away from the seating area in the court room; the audio is broadcast over speakers so anyone in the arraignment court can hear. Have someone in the arraignment court to listen to the arraignment.*

Once the arrestee is arraigned:

- Most likely, they will most likely be released “on their own recognizance: (no bail). The arrestee will be released from the courtroom or a different exit (ex. at Manhattan Central Booking, back exit on Baxter and Bayard St) – ask a court officer or clerk where the arrestee will be released.
- If bail is set, let the court officer know you’re arranging payment and will be coordinating with the arrestee’s lawyer.
- In very rare severe situations, they will be sent to Rikers.

- Relay the legal info to the legal support crew: next court date, assigned lawyer, and charges

RELEASE

- It is great to have support items (like water, food, aspirin, and cigarettes) for arrestees, and to accompany to retrieve their items from the precinct. There is unfortunately a higher risk of exposure to COVID-19 while in a dirty enclosed jail cell with other people, so arrestees should social distance from jail support and consider self-quarantining and getting tested.