



Stand-by Legal Counselling Service

If a person is specifically suspicious on grounds of certain facts to have committed a criminal offence, he/she becomes a "suspect/defendant" (*Beschuldigter*) in a criminal proceeding and has the right to choose a defence counsel (§58 Code of Criminal Procedure).

You were arrested as a suspect/defendant in a criminal proceeding and therefore have the right to contact a defence counsel. For this purpose, a stand-by legal counselling service (*Rechtsanwaltlicher Journdienst*) has been provided by initiative of the Austrian Bar Association (*Österreichische Rechtsanwaltskammer*) and the Federal Ministry of Justice. This service is available to arrested suspects/defendants under following conditions:

The right to assistance of a defence counsel comprises a telephone or, by request of the suspect/defendant, a personal consultation with a lawyer and, if necessary, legal assistance during his/her interrogation (§164 Code of Criminal Procedure) as well as other actions reasonably required for an appropriate defense (like e.g. the application for the appointment of a Legal Aid Lawyer by the court, etc.). The Austrian Bar Association provides for this purpose a stand-by phone number ("hotline") available daily from 0.00 to 24.00 hours where, if required, a counsel entitled to represent clients in criminal proceedings can be contacted immediately.

Any power of attorney given within the scope of the stand-by legal counselling service is considered as cancelled as soon as You are detained in a penal institution or released from detention. You are, however, free to extend this power of attorney for the defence counsel beyond that period.

Your first call and the first telephone consultation with a defence counsel is free of charge!

During this first consultation the counsel will provide You with detailed information on the nature, range and potential costs of services available within the scope of the legal counselling service.

Hotline: 0800 376 386