

NOTICE TO UNREPRESENTED DEFENDANT AT INITIAL APPEARANCE

The Douglas County District Attorney's Office has charged you with a crime. Because of this, you have the right to have an attorney represent you. You have four options to get an attorney:

1. You may apply with the Public Defender's Office. To apply, go to the Public Defender's Office, located on the 4th floor of the Government Center attached to the courthouse, or call them at 715-392-7866. They will determine whether you financially qualify for their representation.
2. If you do not qualify for the public defender, you may then apply with the court for a court-appointed attorney, who will represent you at a reduced hourly rate. **You cannot apply for a court-appointed attorney unless you have already applied for a public defender and have been told you do NOT financially qualify for a public defender.**

To apply, go to the Clerk of Courts Office (Room 309 of the courthouse) or call them at 715-395-1203. The court will determine whether you financially qualify for a court-appointed attorney.

3. You have the right to hire an attorney at your own expense.
4. You have the right to represent yourself.

Your next hearing is a status conference in front of the assigned judge. If you wish to have an attorney represent you, you should take steps to get an attorney **as soon as possible**.

If you do not wish to have an attorney represent you, and you wish to speak with the prosecutor about a potential settlement of your case, you should call the District Attorney's Office at 715-395-1218 and ask to schedule a "pretrial conference" to speak with the prosecutor **before** your next court date.

If you want to get an attorney, or if you already have an attorney, the District Attorney will NOT speak with you for a pretrial conference. Your attorney will contact and speak with the District Attorney on your behalf.