

WHAT TO EXPECT DURING YOUR FIRST APPEARANCE

WHAT IS FIRST APPEARANCE?

This is not your trial date. This is when you go to court to find out about the case against you and what your options are.

Your first court date is about:



Gathering information



Getting organized



Considering your legal options

Depending on what you want to do with your case (for example, if you decide to plead guilty), you may or may not have a trial.

WHAT HAPPENS DURING FIRST APPEARANCE?

- 1 The courthouse you have to go to for your first appearance will be listed on your release document.
- 2 Get your disclosure, which is the case against you.
- 3 Take your disclosure to a courthouse lawyer known as duty counsel to find out what your options are.
- 4 Find out what the Crown Attorney would recommend to the judge in terms of a sentence if you choose to plead guilty.

TIPS

- Arrive at least 30 minutes before you have to be in court.
- Try to be in the courtroom before court starts so that when your name is called, you can go to the front of the courtroom and speak to the judge.

For more information, visit legalaid.on.ca/FAQ.