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### **NOTICE TO DEFENDANTS WITHOUT ATTORNEYS**

**Non-criminal citations:** The District Attorney's Office does not see your citation or police report(s) prior to the initial appearance. Therefore, we are unable to discuss your case (in person, in writing or by phone) prior to the court date on your citation.

**All traffic/ordinance citations:** If you would like to discuss your case with the Rock County District Attorney's Office *after* your initial appearance but prior to the next court date, please contact us by calling (608) 757-5615. One of the Assistant District Attorneys will review and discuss your case with you. It may be possible to resolve your case before the trial date. It is not a requirement of the Court that you discuss your case with the District Attorney. Such a meeting is strictly voluntary. *If you are or intend to be represented by an attorney, you must communicate with the District Attorney only through your attorney.*

Attorneys and staff at the District Attorney's Office do **not** represent you. They represent the State and are seeking to convict you. They cannot give you legal advice (including whether you need a lawyer or not) and cannot help you complete any forms. Wisconsin Supreme Court Rule 20:3.8 provides in part that prosecutors may discuss the matter with an unrepresented person, provide information regarding and negotiate a settlement, which may include a waiver of constitutional and statutory rights, but shall not provide legal advice to defendants, including, but not limited to whether to get a lawyer, whether to accept or reject a settlement offer, whether to waive an important procedural right, or give an opinion as to how the court or a jury is likely to rule on the case. Specifically, prosecutors shall not assist a defendant in the completion of guilty plea forms, forms for the waiver of a preliminary hearing, forms for the waiver of a jury, or appellate rights forms.

**Your rights include, but are not limited to, the following:**

To have an attorney represent you at all stages of your case, with a reasonable amount of time to find an attorney; and

If you are indigent (suffering from extreme poverty) and charged with a crime, to have an attorney appointed for you by the State Public Defender; and if the State Public Defender rejects your application for an attorney, to ask for a review of that decision by a judge, which may result in the appointment of an attorney at County expense for you; and

To hire your own attorney; and

To proceed without an attorney to represent you.

If you are charged with a crime, you may contact the **State Public Defender's Office by calling (608) 758-6170, or by visiting their office located on the corner of East Milwaukee and Main 101 E. Milwaukee St., Suite 503, Janesville, WI 53545.**