

Episode Title: Navigating the Arrest Process in Florida

What led you to focus on criminal defense work?

Born to Cuban parents in New Jersey, I was influenced by my family's journey from Cuba and my upbringing in a Cuban-American community. Initially pursuing business, I pivoted to law for more autonomy and personal fulfillment. My career began as a prosecutor, which honed my courtroom skills and led me to focus on criminal defense, where I could use my experience to advocate for clients.

What happens during the ride to the station after an arrest?

The ride to the station is uncomfortable, as you're handcuffed and presumed to have done something wrong. It's generally a quiet ride, and it's crucial not to speak, as the vehicle records audio and video. Anything said can be used against you later, so it's best to remain silent and wait for legal representation.

How do individuals learn what charges they're facing after an arrest?

When you're arrested, the charges may not be immediately clear. It's important to remain calm and ask the officer respectfully what's happening before answering any questions. You have the right to remain silent and request an attorney to ensure you don't inadvertently incriminate yourself during an investigation.

What should family members do when a loved one is arrested?

First, determine where the person is being held and check their eligibility for bond. Contact the jail and a bondsman to facilitate release. Avoid lecturing or trying to solve the case immediately; instead, focus on getting them home and then consult a lawyer the next day to start building a defense.

What is essential for someone new to the arrest process in Florida to understand?

The key is to let law enforcement do their job without saying anything that could complicate your situation. Cooperate with basic requests, like providing your name, but refrain from discussing the incident. Insist on having an attorney present before any further interaction to protect your rights, as the burden of proof lies with the government, not you.