# Charged with a Crime in Alberta? Know Your Rights Before You Speak

A Free Guide from Criminal Defence Lawyers at Red Deer Law Group

## What Happens After You’re Charged

When you’re charged with a criminal offence in Alberta, the process typically begins with your arrest. You may be released with conditions or held for a bail hearing. The first court appearance is not a trial—it is your opportunity to receive disclosure (evidence) and begin your defence.

## Your Right to Remain Silent

You have the right to remain silent. This is one of your most powerful legal protections. Anything you say can be used against you. Politely tell police you wish to speak with a lawyer before answering any questions.

## Common Mistakes That Can Hurt Your Case

- Speaking to police without legal advice

- Contacting the victim or co-accused

- Sharing case details on social media

- Missing court appearances or breaching bail conditions

## How to Choose the Right Defence Lawyer

Look for a lawyer who specializes in criminal law, has trial experience, and communicates clearly. Ask about their experience with your specific charge and what strategies they might use to help you.

## Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Will I get a criminal record?
A: It depends on the outcome of your case. A conviction will usually result in a criminal record.

Q: What happens if I breach bail?
A: Breaching bail can lead to additional charges and reduce your chances of being released again.

Q: Can my charges be dropped?
A: Yes, in some cases the Crown may withdraw charges if there is insufficient evidence or a legal defence is strong.

## Bonus: Free Defence Checklist

- Do not speak to anyone about your case except your lawyer

- Save all paperwork from the police and courts

- Make a timeline of events leading up to your charge

- Gather names of any witnesses who may help your case

## Call to Action

Need Immediate Help?
Book a free, confidential consultation with one of our criminal defence lawyers. We’ll explain your options and fight to protect your future.

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