



## Subpoenas

### What is a subpoena?

A subpoena is an order from a court that says a person has to:

- appear in court
- supply documents, or things for the court or another person to review **OR**
- both of the above



### What do I do if I think I got a subpoena?

Read the subpoena carefully. It may give you instructions on when and where to appear in court. A subpoena also has certain information you need to know. This information depends on who sent it.

#### → If your subpoena is from the court:

The subpoena must state the name of the court and the title of the case, if the subpoena is for a hearing, trial, or deposition.

#### → If your subpoena is from a lawyer:

The subpoena must include: the lawyer's printed name, the lawyer's registration number, the office address and phone number, and who the lawyer represents.

### Who can give me a subpoena?

There are rules about who can "serve" a subpoena. A subpoena may be given to you (served) by the sheriff, a deputy sheriff, or any person at least 18 years of age who is not a party to the case.

### Who do I call if I have questions about the subpoena?

If you have any questions about the subpoena, contact the person who issued the subpoena.

### Who do I call if I have problems with following the orders in the subpoena?

Contact the person who issued the subpoena if:

- you need an interpreter or need special accommodations because of a disability

- if you have a problem with the scheduled court date.  
**Note:** The judge might not change the date even if you ask for it.

### **Does a subpoena mean I have to show up?**

Sometimes. You could face legal consequences if you don't do what the subpoena orders. You can be held in contempt of court, and a judge could issue a warrant for your arrest.

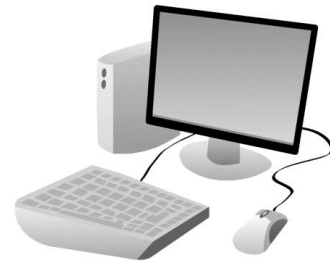
Not all subpoenas order you to appear in court. If you have questions about what it is that you need to do, you should contact the person who issued the subpoena.

### **I'm worried that following the subpoena could cause legal issues for me.**

#### **What should I do?**

If you are afraid of legal issues that could happen if you follow the orders of the subpoena, call a lawyer as soon as possible. If you are an undocumented immigrant and get a subpoena, talk to a lawyer as soon as possible.

- **The Legal Rights Center** (Hennepin County)  
Go to: [www.legalrightscenter.org](http://www.legalrightscenter.org) or call [612-337-0030](tel:612-337-0030).
- **The Neighborhood Justice Center** (Ramsey County)  
Go to: [www.njcinc.org](http://www.njcinc.org) or call [651-222-4703](tel:651-222-4703).
- **The Indian Legal Assistance Program** (for St. Louis, Carlton, Lake, Cook, Aitkin, Mille Lacs, Pine, Crow Wing and Morrison counties)  
Go to: <http://ilap-duluth.com> or call [218-727-2881](tel:218-727-2881) or [888-249-3205](tel:888-249-3205).
- **The Regional Native Public Defense Corporation** (If you are a member of the White Earth or Leech Lake Reservations and live in Beltrami, Cass, Clearwater, Hubbard, Itasca, and Mahnommen counties)  
Go to: <https://www.nativedefense.org/> or call [218-339-5680](tel:218-339-5680) (Leech Lake) or [218-983-3285](tel:218-983-3285) (White Earth).



**Fact Sheets are legal information NOT legal advice. See a lawyer for advice.**

*Don't use this fact sheet if it is more than 1 year old. Ask us for updates, a fact sheet list, or alternate formats.*

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