

Turning yourself in to law enforcement is never a fun experience, but careful preparation can help reduce stress and set you up for a smoother process. Follow this checklist to ensure you're ready for each step, from managing your personal affairs to understanding the booking process. Taking these actions can help protect your rights and ensure you're prepared for what lies ahead. Remember, *always* consult with an [experienced criminal defense attorney](#) before interacting with law enforcement.

What to Do Before You Turn Yourself In

1. Speak to a Criminal Defense Attorney

- Consult with an experienced [criminal defense lawyer](#) who can advise you on the process, [potential defense strategies](#), and what to expect.
- Understand your rights, as your attorney will explain them and prepare you for questioning or other interactions with law enforcement.

2. Arrange Your Finances and Personal Affairs

- Secure any necessary funds, as you may need money for bail, legal fees, or other expenses while detained.
- Inform family or trusted contacts about your plans, so someone knows where you will be and can manage any responsibilities if needed.

3. Prepare Essential Documents and Information

- Gather identification, medical records, and any legal documents that may be useful during your detention.
- Keep contact information for your attorney and any important phone numbers written down in case you cannot access your phone.

4. Arrange for Dependents and Pets

- If you have children, elderly relatives, or pets in your care, make arrangements for their care and communicate these plans with trusted friends or family.

5. Understand the Booking and Bail Process

- Familiarize yourself with what to expect during the booking process, including fingerprinting, photographs, and basic questioning.
- Know the bail process, including potential costs and procedures, to better anticipate the steps following your surrender.

6. Dress and Pack Appropriately

- Dress conservatively and avoid bringing valuables or prohibited items, as these will likely be confiscated during booking.
- Bring only essentials, such as your ID and any necessary medications, which should be in labeled containers to avoid delays.

7. Plan Your Transportation and Timing

- Arrange reliable transportation to the police station or courthouse and allow time for unexpected delays.
- Consider the timing of your surrender, as turning yourself in earlier in the day may allow for faster processing.

8. Mentally Prepare for the Experience

- Stay calm and focused, knowing that cooperating with authorities can help you navigate the process more smoothly.
- Remember that your attorney will be available to guide and support you, so don't hesitate to ask questions and seek clarification.

Need to Turn Yourself in for a Crime? Call Combs Waterkotte's Defense Lawyers First

Turning yourself in may feel overwhelming, but following this checklist can help ensure you're fully prepared. For personalized legal guidance, contact Combs Waterkotte for support and expertise at every step. You can call us at [wdac-phone] or [contact us online](#).