

RAPE SLIDE SHOW

A single accusation of rape can send you to prison. You will face a complicated and powerful legal system with the single goal of convicting you, whether or not you are innocent. The statistics reveal that over 90% of people who are accused of this rape either agree to a plea bargain or are convicted in court. These are simply the facts.

Before we go any further, we must warn you: DO NOT TO SPEAK TO ANYONE OVER THE PHONE OR IN PERSON about the allegations. That includes the accuser, the accuser's friends or family, and especially the police. Most people destroy their chances of proving their innocence because they simply talk too much and they talk to detectives without an attorney. You need to understand the reality of your situation NOW so that you will protect yourself—and have the hope of being one of the 10% of defendants who are acquitted or whose case is dismissed.

You must also realize what you risk in order to prepare for the battle ahead. If you are convicted you will go to prison. You will be branded as a sex offender for the rest of your life, must register as a sex offender every year, and your name will be posted as a sex offender on a public on-line site. You will lose the ability to live and work where you want, and may lose your family and friends as well.

The legal system does not care about you, only a conviction that shows the public that the "system" is working. No one cares if you are an active church member, or a respected community member, or a model parent and Boy Scout leader. The only thing that matters to the district attorney is a conviction.

Why can your silence save you? The police have been trained in aggressive psychological interrogation techniques that depend on your need to be believed, your desire to explain the circumstances. Perhaps the sexual encounter was consensual, or nothing actually happened. It doesn't matter because your innocence is no match for the interrogation practices that will turn your words into self-incriminating statements. Those statements will be used to prove your guilt and are the reason that 9 out of 10 defendants finally accept a plea bargain or are convicted.

You should be asking yourself, "how did I become the 'victim'?"

The disintegration of a defendant's rights, especially in sex crimes, began in the seventies when politicians realized that crimes against women and children were hot-button campaign issues. The public supported legislators who made federal funds available to for the purpose of creating a powerful system that most defendants cannot fight against. The influx of money allowed district attorneys to create special sex crime units , with dedicated police, detectives, and expert witnesses who were ready to believe the accuser and convict the defendant.

The Innocence Legal Team's was formed to level the playing field with its own team of criminal sex crime specialists, investigators and experts to defend its clients. We have the scientific knowledge necessary to select and use the best experts. The areas of science most commonly invoked in Rape prosecutions include vaginal and anal anatomy and their common deviations, Trauma and alternate causes, and DNA and genetics.

Using the most advanced internet technology for conferencing with the client, filing motions, researching case law, and contacting key specialists makes it

possible for our team to work fast and effectively against the almost unlimited resources of the prosecution.

Our attorneys also benefit from 40 years of experience of defending clients falsely accused of sex crimes. That is why they know how to quickly manage accusations, establish evidence in your favor, interview witnesses, and create a theory of the case that will show the jury why you are innocent. They are experienced in the classic defenses to a Rape charge: (1) the absence of sexual intercourse is a defense, (2) consent of the alleged victim is a defense, and (3) a reasonable belief in the consent by the alleged victim based on the facts surrounding the event, even if the alleged victim did not in fact consent. Their experience also prepares them for legal difficulties presented by laws written over the last decades that defend the accuser rather than of the defendant. Instead of being presumed innocent as the law states, the accused in reality must prove his innocence and it has become increasingly difficult to do so.

If you are accused of rape, a judge presiding over your case must inform the jury that:

- 1) an allegation of rape does not require any corroboration;
- 2) there is no requirement for medical evidence;
- 3) there is no requirement for DNA evidence; and
- 4) there is no requirement for a second witness.

In short, there is no requirement for obtaining a conviction other than the bare allegation made by an accuser. Prosecutors can also demand that perspective jurors must agree to these requirements. If a juror refuses, he or she can be excused

and the prosecutor is given an unfair advantage by dismissing anyone who might want to think critically about the information presented to the court.

For decades, women were discouraged to report rape or press charges because their own sexual history could be revealed in court. That practice was used to put an alleged victim's testimony in doubt and ruin her reputation. Resulting "Rape Shield Laws" were meant to protect a woman's privacy but not obscure the truth. Now these laws are used to make it easier to falsely accuse a sexual partner.

For example, should a woman consent to having sex with someone she meets at a bar, and then claims rape afterward, the accused may no longer present evidence that could prove that the encounter was consensual. Even if the defense investigator finds dozens of witnesses who could testify that they had seen the woman seek sexual companionship before and in similar circumstances, it is not allowed. In short, if a woman goes to a bar for 40 evenings in a row and has sex with a different man each evening, that would not be admissible if you were the man who took her home the 41st night and had sex with her and she claimed rape afterwards. This defies common sense.

That is why the defense of a rape case takes a great deal of time to prepare properly. Without knowing the status of and changes in the law, a lawyer may easily overlook steps necessary to protect you.

Most criminal attorneys do not have the time, resources or the prerequisite knowledge to prepare your defense because they are generalists, not specialists. The Innocent Legal team handles a much lower case load than do public defenders or most criminal attorneys in order to take control of the case quickly and dedicate

the time necessary for its preparation. Preparation and control also minimizes overcharging, or piling on charges by parsing one charge into 3 or 4 separate offenses. While pleading to “only” 1 count of rape is better than pleading to multiple offenses, the punishment is still state prison and the title of a sex offender for life. Overcharging is a tactic that the prosecutor uses to pressure a defendant to accept a plea bargain and “win” another conviction.

Defendants in sex crime cases are falsely accused or wrongly convicted every day in every court across the country. These cases are so emotionally charged that juries, judges and a sympathetic media simply do not hear the facts unless they are prepared logically, systematically, and powerfully. The members of the Innocence Legal Team have taken on this terrible injustice and use their experience and knowledge to protect their clients caught in a judicial system that is no longer balanced or fair.

The selection of your attorney when you are accused of rape is the most important decision of your life. Please go the “Next Step” and contact us. We are your best chance of proving your innocence.