

We cannot hope to provide a complete guide to the law, your rights, nor what you should do. However, COFO has worked out certain guidelines, which should apply to almost every situation. First off, we are unusually fortunate in having for the first time several lawyers and law students in the state. The NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc., the National Lawyers Guild, and the Lawyers Constitutional Defense Committee supply lawyers upon request of the Legal Coordinator in Jackson. Please request lawyers through us for: arrests, workshops, and any other legal problems. The Law Students Civil Rights Research Council has supplied us with law students, including Mike Smith in Batesville; Bob Watkins in Canton; Richard Wheelock in Columbus; Larry Hansen in Greenwood; Ben Gershman in Hattiesburg; Len Edwards in Ruleville and Cleveland; Clinton Hopson in McComb; Alan Lerner, Lowell Johnston, and Dan Pearlman with the Inc. Fund; Cornelia McDougal, George Johnson, and Mike Starr with the Guild; and Bill Robinson and Sherwin Kaplan are Assistant Legal Coordinators. The students are to clerk for whatever lawyers are in the area working on COFO cases, help work up evidence for suits, and be the local channel for legal problems. No suits are to be signed or brought or lawyers retained except through the Jackson legal office. When arrests occur when a COFO volunteer attorney is in the area, normally he would be assigned the case, but the Jackson office must still be requested to make the assignment. This can be done when the call is made informing us of the arrest.

ARRESTS AND POLICE

1. Don't give out local people's names, addresses or phones. Beware of "friendly" conversations with police. They might well be trying to get some information against someone or against the project and trying to trick us. Be guarded but always polite.
2. Registering with the police. Some people have registered including having their pictures and fingers prints taken, feeling that the local police would offer protection. Others have just given their names and COFO address. Others refuse to go down to the police station unless arrested.
3. Report all harassments, arrests, beatings, suspicious cars (license plates, make, year, model, color), to the police, FBI, and COFO.
4. Don't go anywhere with a policeman unless you are under arrest.
5. If you are under arrest, you have a right to know what law you have violated and what the charge is.
6. Be sure to ask for receipts itemized for every item taken by the police.
7. Ask to make a phone call for obtaining legal aid upon arrival at the police station. You don't have to tell anyone who that might be. Call your local COFO office, or if that can't be done, call Mr. Johnathan Smith at 352-9478, collect.
8. Don't worry if a lawyer doesn't immediately come. We are working on your case and many others.
9. Remember to get exact descriptions of the police, and names.

ARRESTS AND POLICE Continued - FOR THE LOCAL PROJECT OFFICE

10. Call Jackson COFO staff phone 352-9478. Report names, ages, race, organizational affiliation, home address, project phone and address, day date, time and place of incident, the circumstances leading up to the arrests, police descriptions, jail location, charges, likelihood of danger, hearing or trial dates, whether affidavits were taken, what contacts with officials have been made, and the bond information as indicated below:

BAIL BONDS

1. Give full bond details when calling Jackson COFO the first time. What is the total amount needed (in cash and in property) to get the person out of jail. Who with the local project is handling the bond situation (preferably the project director or the law student). What is his name, address and phone number.
2. List the name, age, etc., of each summer volunteer requiring bond money to be sent from his parents or contacts. Each project should have a complete list of summer volunteers, staff and local people working with the project including names, ages, birthdates, home addresses and phones.
3. Except for summer volunteers, the local project should try to handle the bond situation themselves. One possibility is a local citizens property bond committee. These people pledge to sign on as sureties on property bonds of staff or local people. If any problem cannot be handled locally, then contact us.
4. COFO will contact the parents or bail people for the summer volunteers and will have the \$ wired to whoever and to what address the local project designates and in whatever form specified. The project bond person must obtain a receipt for each bond and send a copy of that including the bail receipt number to Jackson, 708 Ave. N. Greenwood, and 8½ Raymond St., N.W., Atlanta, Ga., 30314. Each bail bond sender or donor needs to be sent that information, along with the trial dates and charges for each defendant.

TRIALS AND HEARINGS

1. REFUSE TO PARTICIPATE IN ANY HEARING WITHOUT A LAWYER. Request a continuance until you have had a reasonable chance to get a lawyer of your own choosing. This right to counsel includes the right to an attorney who will raise all the relevant constitutional issues, including segregated courtroom, exclusion of Negroes from the juries, discriminatory references to Negroes in the Courtroom, etc. Therefore, do not accept a Court appointed lawyer, since in most cases he'll not help.
2. If the judge tries you without a lawyer, stand mute, which means that you are not to make any plea of any sort. Do not plead guilty, nolo contendere, or not guilty. Refuse to plead.
3. Nolo contendere pleas are discouraged.
4. Be cautious in your first hearing. What you say in the Justice Of Peace, Police or Municipal Court will most probably be used to strengthen the case against you in the trial de novo in the county court.
5. Ask the judge to inform you of your rights.

REPORTS

1. Fully report all harassments, intimidations, arrests, trials, etc., including difficulty in obtaining or using the telephones so that proper legal aid and/or protests can be made. Each project should keep a chronological log with detail (names, days, dates, times, places, etc.). Copies to Jackson, Greenwood, and Atlanta. In addition, the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights is required to investigate every signed voting complaint (Washington, D.C.)

CARS

1. Must have state license plates (and as soon as have plates must have an inspection sticker) within 30 days and operators license within 60 days of entering state. One can be validly arrested if one has Mississippi tags but not an inspection sticker.
2. Insurance. You must have it. Don't drive without it. SNCC is developing a national fleet plan. Contact us with full information about all cars in use.
3. Drivers. Always have automobile registration in glove compartment. Only the owner or duly authorized person can drive the car (who must have written and preferably notarized authorization).
4. COFO requires all cars used by us to be registered with this office. Copy the cars registration form, including the date entered the state, the license plate number, operators license number, and complete insurance information.
5. In case of accidents. First aid the injured. Call an ambulance if necessary. Get the license plate numbers, the make and year of all cars involved and names, addresses, and insurance companies of all drivers. Call the police, but don't discuss who was at fault. Be sure to file the complete report with the Mississippi Highway Patrol within 24 hours.

SECURITY

1. Lock all COFO buildings at night and have the front door closed, if possible, during the day. Don't allow a policeman to enter, unless he has a valid search warrant. Consent or failure to object at the time waives ones rights. Search warrants are illegal if: they are for the "premises", they vary from the affidavit, have no return date, person in charge of the premises isn't given a copy of it prior to the search, or if it is a "John Doe" warrant. Treat automobiles as buildings, except that they are much less secure. In arrests, searches can be made of the immediate vicinity, but subsequently, warrants are necessary.
2. Don't allow anyone to wander about your office or freedom house. Be strict about checking credentials and control visitors. Accept no additional workers. Call Jackson about any special problems.

LAWYERS

ATTORNEYS ARE SENT OUT UPON REQUESTS GIVEN TO THE LEGAL COORDINATOR IN JACKSON. NO SUITS OR TRIAL WORK IS TO BE DONE WITHOUT OUR O.K. AND ASSIGNMENT.

R. Hunter Morey