

Disclaimer: this is not legal or medical advice it is general information for education purposes. You will need to consider what you need for your situation and obtain relevant individual representation or assistance.

First court date – administrative and to request documents

If you have been arrested, charged, and received a summons date to attend court, you need to attend court on the date and time you have been summonsed.

We are working to have lawyers, barristers or advocates on the ground in Wellington who will be available to you to assist with you for any preliminary advice. If you do require legal help, then complete this form: <https://voicesforfreedom.co.nz/legal-advice-form>.

If you are going to court this week, and you don't get to speak to or engage a lawyer in time, do not worry, as attending court this week is process-driven and an administrative formality. What you need to do is:

1. **Attend court** on the date, time, and place specified in the summons. Several matters will likely happen simultaneously, and the foyer or area outside the relevant court room will be bustling. Plan to be there the whole day as it takes time.
2. A **duty solicitor** will probably be in the foyer area outside the court room and identifiable from a badge on their jacket. They will tell you which court you need to be in, roughly what time and what you need to do. They may even be able to appear on your behalf if you require.
3. Try to **speak to the Police** before your case is called by the judge or magistrate and let them know that you require full disclosure. Provide them with your email address and contact details and ask for full disclosure to be sent through to you. Advise them that you will not be entering a plea at this time.
4. **Inside the court room**, the Registrar will call your name and matter. Head into the dock, or the place where you are told to stand. Wait for the judge or magistrate to speak to you. Be courteous and respectful. When they ask you, let them know that "I will not be entering a plea at this time. I request full disclosure relating to the incident".
5. The judge or magistrate will request the Police release you on remand without plea so the Police can supply you with all the evidence against you.
6. Another court date will be set in Wellington. If you have chosen to defend the charge, you cannot move your court appearances to another location.
7. Adhere to all your bail conditions – do not give the Police a reason to arrest you again.