



# Subpoenas

## What is a subpoena?

A subpoena is an order from a court that says someone has to appear in court. A subpoena can order that someone comes to testify during a trial. A subpoena can also order a person to produce books, papers, documents, or other materials.

## 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 proceeding, if the subpoena is for a hearing, trial, or deposition.

### → If your subpoena from a lawyer:

The subpoena must include: the lawyer's printed name, the lawyer's registration number, the office address and phone number, and the name of the party that 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 action or claim.

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

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

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

Contact the party who issued the subpoena if:

- you need an interpreter or need special accommodations due to 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?

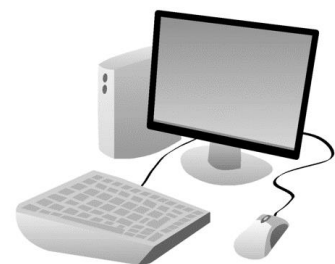
You could face legal consequences if you don't do what the subpoena orders. You can be held in contempt of court, and a judge could issue a warrant for your arrest.

## 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.
- The Neighborhood Justice Center (Ramsey County)  
Go to: [www.njcinc.org](http://www.njcinc.org) or call 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.
- 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: <http://rnpdc.org> or call 218-339-5680.



Find more fact sheets at [www.lawhelpmn.org/LASMfactsheets](http://www.lawhelpmn.org/LASMfactsheets)

Find your local legal aid office at [www.lawhelpmn.org/resource/legal-aid-offices](http://www.lawhelpmn.org/resource/legal-aid-offices)

**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.*

© 2018 Minnesota Legal Services Coalition. This document may be reproduced and used for non-commercial personal and educational purposes only. All other rights reserved. This notice must remain on all copies. Reproduction, distribution, and use for commercial purposes are strictly prohibited.