

Know Your Rights & Emergency Resources

Your Rights Under the Nigerian Constitution

- Right to Remain Silent – You are not obliged to answer questions without a lawyer present. (Constitution, S. 35(2))
- Right to be Informed – Police must tell you the reason for your arrest immediately. (S. 35(3))
- Right to Legal Counsel – You have the right to a lawyer of your choice or a free Legal Aid lawyer if you cannot afford one. (S. 36(6)(c))
- Right to Bail – For most offences, bail must be considered promptly; you should not be kept beyond 48 hours without court order. (S. 35(4))
- Right to Humane Treatment – No torture, inhuman, or degrading treatment is allowed. (S. 34(1))
- Right to Contact Family/Support – You can insist on calling a family member or lawyer immediately.

What to Do if Arrested?

- Stay Calm** – Don't resist or argue aggressively.
- Ask for Identification** – Politely request to see the arresting officer's ID and note the name and badge number.
- State You Want a Lawyer** – Say clearly: "I want to speak to my lawyer before answering any questions."
- Contact Help** – Call a trusted person and give them details of your location, arresting officers, and station name.
- Do Not Sign any statement or confession without your lawyer's advice.
- Document Everything** – If safe, note dates, times, and names; if you're released, write down events while fresh.

Call for help immediately

Dial HBBA's toll-free line

0800 007 04222

Reach out to the Legal Aid Council
to request a lawyer

Report rights violations

Use NHRC's hotline or SMS short code

6472 to lodge complaints

Contact Citizens' Gavel via their offices
or WhatsApp **0706 795 1851**

Document everything.

Keep records of names, places, times, and any evidence. Inform friends or family of your location and the organizations you've contacted.

Seek advice from NGOs or clinic support.

Even without direct phone lines, organizations like CLO, CRP, LEDAP, Access to Justice, and university clinics can assist—especially if referred through other agencies.

Emergency & Legal Aid Numbers

Organization	Phone	Email	Focus
Amnesty International Nigeria	+234 1 545 6218		A globally recognized rights organization monitoring human rights abuses and advancing legal reforms in Nigeria.
Legal Aid Council of Nigeria (LACON)	0708 552 2200	info@legalaidcouncil.gov.ng	Free legal services for indigent citizens
SERAP (Socio-Economic Rights and Accountability Project)	0800-CALLSERAP 0800-2255-73727	info@serap-nigeria.org	Human rights, corruption cases
CLEEN Foundation Centre for Law Enforcement Education	Lagos: 0813 305 1024	cleen@cleen.org	Police reform, rights monitoring
WACOL Women's Aid Collective	0703 577 9083 (TAMAR) Helpline: 0909 133 3000)	wacolnig@gmail.com	Women's rights, GBV
NOPRIN Network on Police Reform in Nigeria	0816 717 8486	noprin@noprin.org	Police reform & detainee rights
WARDC Women Advocates Research and Documentation Centre	0818 005 6401	info@wardcnigeria.org	Women's rights, legal advocacy
HURILAWS Human Rights Law Service	+234 1 342 6522	hurilaws@yahoo.com	Human rights litigation
NACTAL Network Against Child Trafficking, Abuse and Labour		Via nactal.org	Anti-child trafficking
WOTCLEF Women Trafficking and Child Labour Eradication Foundation	Via NAPTIP referral		Anti-trafficking, child labour
(PWAN) Partners West Africa Nigeria	No. 46 Mike Akhigbe Way, Jabi, Abuja +234-809-125-7245	infoguidenigeria.org info@partnersnigeria.org	Enhances citizen engagement and security governance

Emergency & Legal Aid Numbers

Entity	Location	Address	Phone /Email
Falana & Falana Chambers	Lagos	25 Adekunle Fajuyi Way, GRA, Ikeja, Lagos	+234 1-7401928 +234 1-803 305 2979 +234 1-703 0878 +234 903 300 4903
	Abuja	22 Mediterranean St, Maitama, Abuja	+234 813 052 2502 +234 802 106 3232
Nigerian Bar Association	Abuja (HQ)	Plot 1101 Buhari Way, CBD, Abuja	+234 810 402 5812 +234 9 291 0571 +234 9 291 0572 info@nigerianbar.org.ng nigerianbar@nba.org.ng
NBA Lagos Branch	Lagos Island	City Hall, Suite 105/08, Catholic Mission St.	0906 000 0639
NBA Lagos (Ikeja)	GRA, Ikeja	Chair: M.O. Ubani	0803 301 9746
NBA Badagry Branch	Okokomaiko, Lagos	Chair: Bode Oyeyemi	0803 321 3814
NBA Ikorodu Branch	Ikorodu, Lagos	Chair: S.O.K. Owosile	0809 340 9996
NBA Lagos (Onikan)	Onikan, Lagos	Chair: Taiwo O. Taiwo	0802 311 5101
NBA Port Harcourt Branch	Port Harcourt	No. 1 Bank Road	+234 704 921 2488 info@nbaportharcourt.ng

Bail Basics

- Bail is free for most minor offences — police cannot demand money for granting bail. (Police Act 2020, S. 64)
- Bail conditions should be reasonable; sureties must be clearly informed of their obligations.
- If bail is refused at a police station, you can apply to a magistrate court.
- Always collect and keep a copy of your bail bond form.

Quick Tips

***Save** emergency numbers in your phone under “Lawyer – Emergency” and “Rights Helpline”.*

***Share** your live location with a trusted contact if being taken away.*

***Keep** copies of important IDs and phone numbers with a trusted person.*

***Report** abuses to the Police Complaints Response Unit (CRU):*

Phone/WhatsApp: 0805 700 0001 | Twitter: [@PoliceNG_CRU](https://twitter.com/PoliceNG_CRU)

Next Steps:

- Reach out to **Falana & Falana Chambers** in **Lagos** or **Abuja**, depending on your preference or location.
- For broader inquiries about the legal profession, continuing education, or administrative matters, contact the _____ in Abuja.

Legal Aid Council	Free legal representation to eligible indigent detainees; must be offered at arrest.
National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)	Investigates rights violations, visits detention centers, offers redress/remedies.
Public Complaints Commission (PCC)	Ombudsman handling administrative misconduct by public/private entities.
Civil Liberties Org (CLO), CRP, LEDAP	NGOs offering legal aid, advocacy, and rights defense.
Hope Behind Bars Africa	Support and legal aid for pre-trial detainees; focuses on indigent justice access.
Access to Justice	Promotes fair legal access and system integrity, especially for marginalized groups.
Citizens' Gavel (via Podus app)	Tech-enabled access to pro-bono lawyers and justice support.
University Law Clinics	Free legal services and rehabilitation assistance via law students.
Police CRU / Commissioner of Police	Channels to formally report police abuses and unlawful arrests.
Civil Liberties Organization (CLO), Constitutional Rights Project (CRP), LEDAP, Access to Justice	These offer legal aid and advocacy but may require outreach via their websites or local offices. Nigeria - Action4JusticeWikipedia
University Law Clinics	Often accessible through nearby law schools— they may be contacted via the institutions' websites or student affairs offices.