

# TEN QUESTIONS

## EVERY DEFENDANT NEEDS TO ANSWER

Souder Tate Law

### 1 WHAT ARE THE CHARGES ?

Do I understand the charges against me? Do I know the range of punishment for the charges?

### 2 WHAT IS THE EVIDENCE ?

Have I read the police reports and witness statements in my case? Is there enough evidence to find me guilty?

### 3 WHAT IS MY DEFENSE ?

Do I have a defense to the charges, or are there any mitigating circumstances that lessen my guilt?

### 4 WHAT ARE MY RIGHTS ?

Do I understand my constitutional rights? Has my attorney answered all of my questions about my case?

### 5 WHAT IS THE OFFER?

Have I been given a written offer? Do I understand the terms of the offer and how it could affect my life?

### 6 WHAT ARE MY OPTIONS?

Do I understand my options if I decide not to take the offer? Is treatment court part of the offer or an option?

### 7 WHAT IS MY STORY?

What challenges have I faced in my life which either contributed to my charges or have made me stronger?

### 8 WHAT IS MY DESTINATION?

Based on my life story so far, how do I imagine my life will be like one year from now? Is this the life I want?

### 9 WHAT IS MY PURPOSE?

Do I believe that my life has a purpose? What is it? Am I currently fulfilling that purpose in how I live my life?

### 10 WHAT SHOULD I DO NEXT?

If you ask yourself this question throughout your case and then do the right thing, you increase the likelihood of getting the best possible outcome.

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