



KELLY GREENWAY BRUCE  
BARRISTERS & SOLICITORS  
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# LEGAL MATTERS



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Robert practices criminal law. He completed his Juris Doctorate at the University of Windsor. At Windsor he participated in numerous activities including Community Legal Aid where he served as a caseworker. During law school Robert completed an externship at the Library of Parliament in Ottawa. Robert articulated and worked as a summer student at Kelly Greenway Bruce before being called to the bar in June of 2014.

**Q** *Do I need to give a statement to police if asked for one?*

**A** In general, you have no obligation to provide a statement to the police. If you're under arrest or detained, you have the right to contact a lawyer before you submit to questioning or provide a statement.

Many people worry that by calling a lawyer, it may look as if they have something to hide. Be advised that you can contact a lawyer without negative inferences being drawn in court.

If the police call asking to meet with you, you should contact a lawyer for advice. Some police questioning may seem innocent but it may turn aggressive and accusatory without being unlawful. Anything you tell a police officer can be used against you and someone may even go from being a witness to suspect without knowing it.

Even if you provide a statement that exonerates you, that statement will not necessarily be used in court. If you have concrete evidence of your innocence, give it to your lawyer who can ensure the police and/or Crown receive complete rather than selective information.

There are some exceptions to your right to remain silent. If you're arrested for example, you must provide the police with your name, date of birth and address. If asked by the police to give a statement talk to Kelly Greenway Bruce first to find out what information you MUST provide – if anything – and what information you're not required to provide.



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