

What do you need to know when dealing with an advocate?



- It is necessary to discuss and agree with an advocate on communication channels (how and when you can contact him/her and how he/she can contact you). Immediately notify your advocate about any changes to your contact information. Contact your advocate immediately after your release from detention.

- You have the right to privately meet with your advocate at any time.
- The advocate CANNOT make any decision without your knowledge. You jointly decide all your actions.
- The advocate is obliged to maintain the attorney-client privileged information and has no right to share the data you have disclosed to him/her with other persons without your consent.
- It is important that you trust your advocate and provide complete and detailed information about your case.
- If you think that the advocate is not performing his/her duties properly, then it is necessary to submit a written complaint to the Chairman of the Chamber of Advocates (contact information is provided below).
- The complaint can be submitted through the administration of your place of imprisonment. It is necessary to state in the complaint all the facts underlying it.
- You can find out about the process and the results of the appeal by contacting the Chamber of Advocates.



Written application form for free legal aid

ENG

To the Head of the Public Defender's Office of the Chamber of Advocates of Armenia

From asylum-seeker in the Republic of Armenia

Name.....

Surname.....

Application

Please assign a public defender to provide legal advice and representation to me in the asylum procedures.

I am attaching my ID as an asylum-seeker in Armenia.

Date..... Signature.....

Public Defender's Office of the Chamber of Advocates of the Republic of Armenia
Address: 7-2 Zakyan St., 2nd Floor, Yerevan, 0010, Armenia
Tel: +374 10 600-714 / ☎+374 33 600 714
Email: pashtpan@advocates.am
Website: www.hpg.am

For the representations of the Public Defender's Office in the provinces (marzes) of Armenia, check this webpage: <https://www.hpg.am/am/site/Seator> or call the Office of the Public Defender.

Chamber of Advocates of the Republic of Armenia
Address: 7-2 Zakyan St., 4th Floor, Yerevan, 0010, Armenia
Tel: +374 10 600-701, +374 10 600-704
Email: info@advocates.am
Website: www.advocates.am

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
Address: 14 Petros Adamyan St., Yerevan 0010, Armenia
Hot line: 08000 0025
Email: armyeprt@unhcr.org
Website: <https://help.unhcr.org/armenia/>



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Free legal aid to asylum-seekers in criminal and extradition proceedings



<https://help.unhcr.org/armenia/>



If you are being prosecuted for irregularly crossing the state border of the Republic of Armenia OR you are wanted by the authorities of your country, you have the right to FREE legal aid.

How to get FREE legal aid?

- You can use the services of the Public Defender's Office to get FREE legal aid guaranteed by the State.
- The Public Defender's Office is an integral division of the Chamber of Advocates of the Republic of Armenia, which provides state-funded legal aid through the advocates serving as public defenders.
- The State authority dealing with your criminal or extradition process must immediately arrange an appointment of a public defender for you.

If you think that it is dangerous for you to return to your country and you have been detained in Armenia either due to irregular crossing of the state border of the Republic of Armenia or being wanted by the authorities of your country, you should immediately report your concerns to an official of the relevant state authority (border guard, police officer, investigator, etc.), as well as your advocate. Ask the official dealing with your case, as well as your advocate, to help you in submitting an application for asylum in the Republic of Armenia.



What is the advocate's role

- **An advocate in a criminal proceeding** can help you file an asylum application, as well as apply to the Public Defender's Office to appoint an advocate **for your asylum case**. It is very important to have an advocate as early as possible in the asylum case. Ask your advocate in the criminal proceeding to help you in this matter.

- An advocate in the criminal proceeding takes measures to have your rights respected by all state authorities, including measures to ensure that you, as an asylum-seeker, is protected from forced return to your country.
- The advocate ensures that all procedures are carried out in accordance with the law, protects your rights and interests, represents you in various state authorities and in the court if necessary, ensures that the requirements and deadlines set by the law are met.
- The advocate provides you with consultation on the entire course of your case, as well as on your joint steps.
- The advocate helps you to obtain the necessary documents and information and to submit them to the relevant authorities.
- The advocate in the criminal proceeding stays in touch with your asylum advocate, so that your rights as an asylum-seeker are represented as effectively as possible in the criminal proceeding or extradition process.
- Throughout the entire course of your case, the advocate maintains regular contact with you, provides comprehensive information about the progress of the case, consults on the next necessary steps, and prepares you for the next stages of your case, including participation in court hearings.
- In case of a negative decision of the court on your case, the advocate helps to appeal the court's decision in the higher instance court.



If you are wanted:

- The advocate petitions the state authority dealing with the extradition procedure, to make a decision to reject your extradition. Such a request requires appropriate grounds, for example, if you are threatened with torture or the death penalty.
- If you have been detained, the advocate deals with the issue of releasing you from detention. In case of rejection, he/she appeals the rejection in the court.
- Ask your advocate about your right to submit a complaint to the European Court of Human Rights.

- If a decision is made to extradite you, the advocate appeals that decision in the court.



If you are being prosecuted for irregularly crossing the state border:

- The advocate deals with the issue of stopping the criminal prosecution, justifying it by the fact that you had to take such a step in order to seek asylum.
- If you have been detained, the advocate deals with the issue of releasing you from detention. In case of rejection, he/she appeals the rejection in the court.
- If the case brought against you for irregular crossing of the state border is submitted to the court, then the advocate protects your rights and interests in the court.

REMEMBER

For irregular crossing of the state border of the Republic of Armenia, in addition to imprisonment, you may also be sentenced to deportation from the territory of the Republic of Armenia. In that case, it is important to appeal the court's decision on deportation if you think that it is dangerous for you to return to your country.

