



Release By Law Enforcement

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When law enforcement officers arrest an individual, they can choose to release the person with a written notice of the person's first court date (instead of taking them to jail to await their court date). Many people who are arrested for non-violent offenses do not pose a threat to community safety and therefore do not need to be in jail while the court system decides what to do with them. Even if an officer chooses to book such an offender into jail, the courts generally will release the person without bail the next day, as long as the person promises to show up for his or her next court date.

Sometimes officers confuse their role in the system and try to "teach the person a lesson" by booking them into the jail, even though they know the person will be promptly released. The problem with this practice is that it costs taxpayers a tremendous amount of money and does nothing to make the community safer. Booking a person into jail and housing them is extremely expensive and it takes limited resources away from addressing the people that are truly dangerous.

Compiled by:

Breean Beggs, Attorney, Mary Lou Johnson, Attorney & Julie Schaffer, Attorney for the Center for Justice

For more information on the Smart Justice Campaign go to www.smartjusticespokane.org, or contact:

Greater Spokane Progress, Anne Martin, Director, (509) 624-5657, anne@spokaneprogess.org
Center for Justice, Julie Schaffer, Attorney, (509) 835-5211, jschaffer@cforjustice.org