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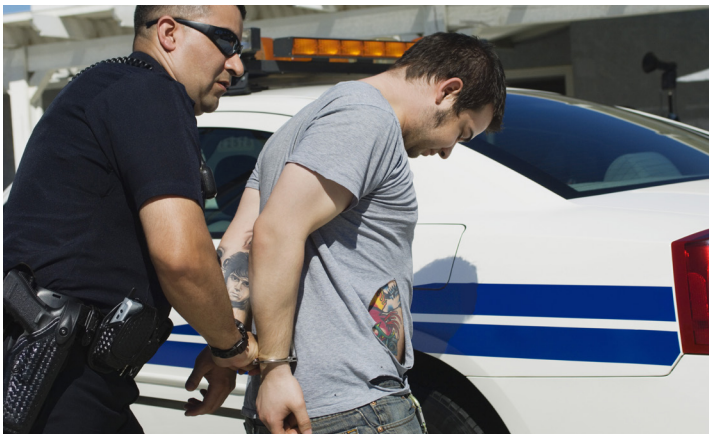
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# You Have the Right to ... What Now?

## Understanding and Using Your Miranda Rights

If you watch a lot of procedural dramas on television, you can probably recite your Miranda rights by heart:

*You have the right to remain silent. Anything you say can and will be used against you in a court of law. You have the right to an attorney. If you cannot afford an attorney, one will be provided for you.*



But why are these words so ubiquitous? What do they mean in the real world? And do you really need to worry about your rights if you haven't committed a crime?

Miranda rights originated in 1966 through the Supreme Court case *Miranda v. Arizona*. Police arrested Ernesto Miranda on kidnapping charges, and after two hours of questioning, he eventually confessed to the crime. His attorneys argued that Miranda did not understand his rights at the time of the confession, so the courts should disregard it as evidence of his guilt. The Supreme Court agreed, saying that one cannot sign away their rights without first understanding them.

The right to remain silent originates from the Fifth Amendment right to not self-incriminate. In this context, "staying silent" means not answering questions from the police. Though experts recommend silence from the beginning, a person can invoke their rights partway through an interrogation. The right to an attorney means you do not have to go through questioning,

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# Introducing a New Attorney

## Welcome Aboard, Mireya Dickey!

I'm thrilled to announce that Bolton Law Firm has welcomed a new attorney, Mireya Dickey! I'm excited to have her aboard. Although most clients are not aware of this, many family law attorneys began in another area of law and ended up doing family law because they were not successful in their first choice. I practice family law because that is what I want to be doing, and when I am hiring attorneys for my firm, I am looking for new attorneys who have been drawn to family law because that is what they want to be doing. From my first meeting with Mireya, it was clear to me that she shared my passion for family law. Because our clients are my top priority, I look for individuals with a genuine passion for helping others.

Born in Laredo, Mireya is a native Spanish speaker. We are happy to now have the option for our clients to speak to an attorney in Spanish if they are more comfortable doing so! And now, I present to you: Mireya Dickey!

*-Ruby Bolton*

Hello! I am so excited to be a part of the Bolton Law Firm, and I appreciate the warm welcome! Growing up, I was fortunate to be surrounded by a loving family. Although my parents were divorced, they made it a goal to work cooperatively together in raising their children. This had an enormous and positive impact on me and my siblings. Seeing firsthand how my divorced parents could work together and the benefits it brought to the family inspired me to pursue a career in which I could be a support system to others during a difficult time in their lives.

**“Because our clients are my top priority, I look for individuals with a genuine passion for helping others.”**



During my undergraduate studies in criminal justice, I dreamt of following a career path in law enforcement as my father had. However, I began a job working at a law firm, and my aspirations quickly evolved. I fell in love with the practice of law and decided to pursue a legal career. My journey led me to obtain a law degree from Thurgood Marshall School of Law, where I also had the privilege of meeting my sweet husband.

My husband and I have settled in The Woodlands, and we look forward to making this our long-term home where we raise our children one day. We are newly married and thrilled to grow old together doing what we love — serving others in their time of need. When away from the office, I enjoy sewing, running, and serving at The Woodlands First Baptist Church.

I am thankful to Ruby for this amazing opportunity, and I am looking forward to working with the wonderful team here as we do great things!

*-Mireya Dickey*

# Spring Fever

## Enjoy Warm Weather While Stuck Indoors

The weather is warming up, the sun is out — and you're trapped inside. Most of us have jobs that leave us stuck indoors during spring's prime midday hours, and it's easy to feel like you're missing out on the season's best parts.

Unfortunately, your boss probably won't give you the day off just because of the gorgeous weather. So, we've compiled the next best thing — some tips to enjoy the season as much as you can while also getting your job done.

**Bring the outdoors in.** When the weather is nice, open as many curtains and blinds as possible. The natural light will warm up the room and brighten your mood. While you're at it, try opening the windows and positioning yourself near one. If you can't be outside, the spring breeze on your face is the next best thing. Plants decrease stress, and having them on your desk might also trick your brain into feeling less cooped up.

**Take a break.** You've still got to work, but that doesn't mean you can't sneak in a few minutes outdoors. Use your break for an outdoor stroll; if possible, you can also walk or bike to work. At the very least, park farther away to give yourself time to enjoy the weather. Volunteer to do a coffee run, pick up lunch, or take out the mail — you'll be an office hero while catching some rays at the same time.

**Try working outside.** If your boss will allow it, there's probably some opportunity to do a bit of work outdoors. Meetings and conference calls might offer your best option. For in-person meetings, your coworkers will also likely relish a chance to take it outdoors. In the event of a conference call, you won't need to convince anyone else — grab your laptop and go! It's not the same as enjoying the weather while you're off the clock, but it's a lot better than being cooped up inside.

With any luck, these tips will help you make it to Friday with your sanity intact. And luckily, the weekend is always just around the corner.



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hearings, or a trial without representation — and if you cannot afford to hire an attorney, the court will provide you with a public defender.

Ironically, to invoke your right to remain silent, you have to talk — simply not speaking isn't considered sufficient. A person needs to say as clearly as possible that they are invoking their rights and want an attorney.

Many people waive their rights because they know they're not guilty — or they think that speaking with the police will make them look innocent. Criminal defense attorneys strongly advise against this. Body language, off-handed statements, or inconsistent recounting of events can be used as evidence of guilt. And sadly, many innocent people have been sentenced to time in prison.

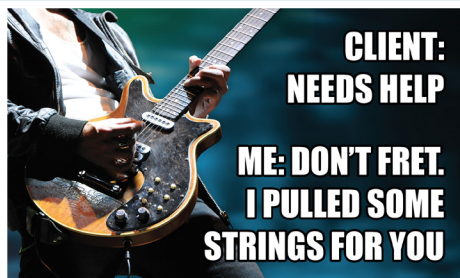


Though film and TV scripts tend to use uniform wording, there's no required Miranda rights phrasing. Police only need to state the rights and ensure the suspect understands them. It's also notable that police only have to read Miranda rights when they arrest a suspect — and they can question someone without detaining them. Courts consider anything the suspect says when not under arrest to be of their own free will.

If you're ever arrested or questioned in connection with a crime, the best way to protect your rights is to invoke them right away. Hire an experienced criminal defense attorney or ask the court to appoint one for you. The lawyer will review your case, help you understand the charges, and provide expert guidance on your next steps. Don't feel bad about doing so — these rights are enshrined in the Constitution. They're just that important.



# TAKE A *BREAK*



## EASY MARCH MADNESS CHILI

Cheer on your favorite team and chow down in minutes with this easy chili recipe!

### Ingredients

- 2 lbs ground beef
- 2 16-oz cans diced tomatoes
- 2 tbsp chili powder
- 2 16-oz cans small red beans
- 1 tbsp Creole seasoning
- 2 8-oz cans tomato sauce
- 1 tsp ground cumin

### Directions

1. In a deep pot, brown the beef, stirring often.
2. Once beef is cooked, add chili powder, Creole seasoning, and cumin, cooking for 1 minute.
3. Stir in diced tomatoes, beans, and tomato sauce and bring the mixture to a boil.
4. After the mixture boils, reduce the heat to low and let chili simmer for 15 minutes.
5. Serve with toppings of choice, like cheese, sour cream, or chives.

Inspired by MyRecipes.com

# I DON'T WANT TO BE LIKE MIKE

## *Why One Man Sued Michael Jordan for \$832 Million*



Many people have been told they have a passing resemblance to a celebrity, and they usually have a funny story or two. To Allen Ray Heckard, his celebrity look-alike was no laughing matter. In 2006, he sued Michael Jordan for looking too much like him and ruining his life.

The amount of the lawsuit was \$832 million, and Heckard not only sued Jordan but also Nike, reasoning that the company helped Jordan achieve his incredible fame. The complaint argued that the resemblance to Jordan "has troubled Heckard's nerves" and being stopped by fans caused him emotional distress for over 15 years. He requested damages for defamation, permanent injury, and pain and suffering.

For someone tired of being "recognized," Heckard didn't shy away from media coverage. When asked how he arrived at the astronomical \$832 million lawsuit figure, he gave this much-shared (yet difficult to parse) answer: "Well, you figure with my age, and you multiply that by seven and, ah, then I turn around and, ah, I figure that's what it all boils down to." When asked why he felt the resemblance to Jordan had affected his life so negatively, he could only answer, "I want to be recognized as me, just like Michael's recognized as Michael."

Funnily enough, most people didn't think Heckard and Jordan looked alike at all. While each had a bald head, mustache, and a gold earring, the similarities seemed to end there. Many news stories noted that, compared to Jordan, Heckard is 8 years older and 6 inches shorter.

One question reporters did not appear to ask was why Heckard felt that Jordan should be held personally liable for hundreds of millions of dollars simply for his natural appearance. Sadly, we will probably never know the answer because the case ended rather unceremoniously. After a few weeks, Heckard dropped the lawsuit. He never publicly shared why, but a Nike spokesperson was glad to speculate that Heckard "finally realized he would end up paying our court costs if the lawsuit went to trial."

In the end, many '90s kids would argue that Heckard was most guilty of looking a gift horse in the mouth. After all, there is no higher achievement than to "be like Mike."