

**RIGHT TO COUNSEL --WAIVER OF COUNSEL
SHOULD YOU HIRE AN ATTORNEY OR APPLY FOR APPOINTED COUNSEL**

MANDATORY QUESTIONS FOR PRO SE DEFENDANTS

You have been charged with a crime for which the punishment may be 12 months or more.

Do you understand the MAXIMUM penalty for each offense for which you are charged?

Do you understand that you have the right to present defense to these charges? Do you know what those defenses are under the law?

Do you understand that you have the right to present any **mitigating evidence** in regard to these charges?

Do you understand that this Court strongly advises you against proceeding without an attorney?

If you are indigent, that is you have no funds to hire an attorney and you meet the income guidelines for appointed counsel, that this Court will appoint an attorney to represent you if you wish.

This Court cannot assist you in the presentation of your case.

Do you understand that you will be held to the same legal standards as an attorney in the presentation of your case?

Do you understand that your failure to raise or challenge issues before this court will hurt or even foreclose issues to you in a higher court or on appeal?

How far did you go in school. Do you have any legal training, formal or informal?

Is your decision to represent yourself made freely and voluntarily?

Are you representing to this Court that this decision is made knowingly and intelligently by you?

These questions should help you analyze whether you should hire an attorney or apply for appointed counsel.

The Court makes the following findings as to whether the Defendant's election to represent himself/herself is made freely and voluntarily:

(STATE YOUR FINDINGS)