MY LAWYER MADE ME DO IT

WHEN YOU'RE UNDER COURT SUPERVISION (ON PROBATION, PAROLE OR SUPERVISED RELEASE), RESISTING INTERROGATION POSES SPECIAL PROBLEMS. JESSICA NEEDS TO RIGURE OUT THE BEST WAY TO SAY NO, WHEN POLICE, PROBATION OFFICERS AND PARENTS ARE ALL DEMANDING THAT SHE ANSWER QUESTIONS.



MS. IRVING? JOE LEE HERE. I GOT
ONE OF YOUR CASES DOWN HERE, JESSICA
NGUYEN, YEAH, GRAPHTI AGAIN. YOU WANNA
SEE HER NOW? OKAY, YOU CAN HAVE HER
WHILE I DO THE PAPERWORK.

YOUR PROBATION OFFICER IS ON HER
WAY. NOW I GOTTA NOTIPY YOUR PARENTS.

HELLO, MAY I SPEAK TO MRS. MARY
NGUYEN? MA'AM. WE HAVE YOUR DAUGHTER
JESSICA IN CUSTODY. NO, I DON'T KNOW YET
WHETHER SHE'S GOING TO BE RELEASED. IF YOU
LIKE, I CAN GIVE YOU A CALL APTER SHE'S BEEN
PROCESSED. YOU WANNA COME IN? OKAY,
YOU'RE WELCOME TO WAIT HERE.
I'LL LET HER KNOW.

YOUR
MOTHER'S ON
HER WAY
DOWN HERE,
TOO.











ACCORDING TO THE POLICE REPORT, YOU SPRAY-PAINTED, "BITE THE HAND THAT REEDS YOU SHIT"

ACROSS THE FRONT OF YOUR HIGH SCHOOL
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING. FRANKLY, I DON'T KNOW
WHERE TO BEGIN. THIS IS TRULY SELF-DESTRUCTIVE
BEHAVIOR...ALTHOUGH I HAVE TROUBLE BELIEVING IT
WAS ENTIRELY YOUR IDEA. IF YOU WERE ACTING ON A
DARE, I CAN TELL YOU THAT WHOEVER PERSUADED YOU
TO TRY THIS STUNT IS NOT YOUR FRIEND.

LOOK, JESSICA, IT'S MY JOB TO PREPARE A REPORT FOR THE JUDGE ABOUT THIS INCIDENT, INCLUDING A RECOMMENDATION ABOUT WHAT SHOULD BE DONE WITH YOU—A RECOMMENDATION THAT THE JUDGE USUALLY FOLLOWS. SO I'D SUGGEST THAT YOU START EXPLAINING WHAT YOU THOUGHT YOU WERE DOING AND WHO PUT YOU UP TO IT.



JESSICA! THAT IS NOT HOW YOU TALK TO PROBATION LADY! I AM ASHAMED OF YOU! YOU NEED TO LEARN SOME MANNERS. I SEE TV PROGRAM ABOUT "TOUGH LOVE." THAT'S WHAT YOU NEED. YOU APOLOGIZE TO MS. IRVING OR I LEAVE YOU HERE. IF I DON'T SIGN PAPERS AND TAKE YOU HOME, THEY GONNA KEEP YOU LOCKEP UP HERE.







PARTICULARLY WHEN YOU'RE BEING ORDERED TO CONFESS BY THE POLICE, YOUR PROBATION OFFICER, AND YOUR MOM.



YOU DID BETTER THAN THAT. BY NOT ANSWERING QUESTIONS, YOU DIDN'T SNITCH ON YOURSELF, EITHER. I THINK, HOWEVER, THAT YOU COULD HAVE HANDLED THIS SITUATION WITH GREATER DIPLOMACY.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN? MY MOM WAS SO UPSET, IT WOULDN'T HAVE MATTERED WHAT I SAID.





PERHAPS NOT. ON THE OTHER HAND, YOU MIGHT HAVE GIVEN HER SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT LATER, WHEN SHE COOLED DOWN. YOU COULD HAVE TOLD HER THAT YOU HAD BEEN TALIGHT TO SAY, I'M GOING TO REMAIN SILENT, I WOULD LIKE TO SEE A LAWYER. AND THAT IF SHE WOULD CALL A CRIMINAL DEFENSE LAWYER, SHE WOULD BE TOLD THAT YOU HAD DONE THE RIGHT THING.



REMEMBER, WHEN YOU INVOKE YOUR RIGHT TO SEE A LAWYER, YOU DON'T HAVE TO HAVE ONE ALREADY LINED UP. YOU CAN BE REFERRING TO A LAWYER THAT YOU'RE GOING TO HIRE, OR A LAWYER THAT THE COURT WILL APPOINT FOR YOU.

BUT ISN'T ASKING FOR A
LAWYER GOING TO PISS OFF MY
PROBATION OFFICER? SHE WAS
HARSHING ON ME, TOO.

AND SHE SAID THAT IF SHE RECOMMENDED TO THE JUDGE TO LOCK ME UP, THE JUDGE WOULD JUST DO IT.









THE EASIEST WAY TO HANDLE THE PROBATION OFFICER IS TO SAY THAT YOU'RE READY TO EXPLAIN EVERYTHING, BUT THAT YOU NEED TO GET YOUR LAWYER'S PERMISSION FIRST. ESSENTIALLY, YOU BLAME THE MEAN OLD LAWYER FOR THE FACT THAT YOU CAN'T JUST IMMEDIATELY SPILL YOUR GUTS TO THE PROBATION OFFICER.



AND EVEN IF I DON'T HAVE A LAWYER FOR MY NEW CASE, I COULD BE REFERRING TO MY LAST LAWYER, THE ONE FROM THE CASE I GOT PUT ON PROBATION FOR, RIGHT?



WHY YOU GO MAKE GRAFFITI? YOU TELL ME!

MOM, YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO BE UPSET. BUT I CAN'T TALK ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED RIGHT NOW. I'VE BEEN STUDYING CIVIL RIGHTS, AND WHAT I LEARNED IS THAT IN THIS SITUATION, I NEED TO REMAIN SILENT AND ASK FOR A LAWYER.



BUT I'M KIND OF NERVOUS ABOUT MY ATTORNEY. SHE'S REALLY STRICT AND SHE TOLD ME THAT I COULDN'T MAKE ANY STATEMENTS WITHOUT HER BEING THERE. I'M AFRAID OF GETTING HER ANGRY WITH ME. COULD YOU CALL HER AND LET HER KNOW THAT I'M HERE? I JUST NEED TO GET HER PERMISSION, AND THEN I CAN EXPLAIN EVERYTHING ...



I KNOW YOU'RE MAD AT ME, BUT I ALSO KNOW THAT THIS IS WHAT I SHOULD DO RIGHT NOW.

YOU THINK YOU SO SMART, THEN WHAT YOU DOING HERE IN A POLICE STATION? MAYBE I OUGHT TO LEAVE YOU HERE, SO YOU CAN LEARN SOME RESPECT.



JESSICA, WHAT IS GOING ON WITH YOU? I NEED AN EXPLANATION OF JUST WHAT YOU THOUGHT YOU WERE DOING. YOU KNOW, I KEPT YOU FROM GETTING LOCKED UP THE LAST TIME YOU ENGAGED IN VANDALISM, BUT I'M HAVING SECOND THOUGHTS ...

MS. IRVING, I'M SO GLAD YOU'RE HERE. I REMEMBER HOW MUCH YOU HELPED ME BEFORE, AND I REALLY WANT TO TELL YOU WHAT JUST HAPPENED.



I DO RESPECT YOU, MOM, AND I LOVE YOU. UNDERSTAND THAT YOU DON'T TRUST WHAT I'M TELLING YOU AND THAT YOU MAY DECIDE TO LEAVE ME HERE. ALL I ASK IS THAT YOU SPEAK TO A CRIMINAL DEFENSE LAWYER FIRST, BEFORE YOU MAKE A FINAL DECISION. IF THE LAWYER SAYS THAT I'M DOING THE RIGHT THING BY REMAINING SILENT AND ASKING FOR AN ATTORNEY, THEN COME BACK AND GET ME.



WELL, I KNOW SOME ATTORNEYS ARE LIKE THAT. LET'S SEE IF WE CAN ARRANGE A TIME THAT I CAN TALK TO YOU WITH HER HERE AS WELL.

I KNEW YOU'D UNDERSTAND ...











