

## MIRANDA V. ARIZONA BRIEF

On March 13, 1963, Ernesto Miranda was arrested on charges of rape and kidnapping in Phoenix, Arizona. Though the police interrogated him for many hours, Miranda was not told his constitutional rights to an attorney or his Fifth Amendment protections against self-incrimination. Without a lawyer present, Miranda signed a written confession admitting to the crimes, leading him to a conviction with a maximum of 55 years in prison. Miranda's lawyer sued the state of Arizona and appealed the case to the Supreme Court, arguing that Miranda's confession could not be used as evidence against him.

The Supreme Court weighed the case and ruled on it on June 13, 1966. In a 5 – 4 decision for Miranda, Chief Justice Earl Warren decided that the Fifth Amendment grants everyone charged with a crime the privilege to avoid self-incrimination as well as additional rights. The rights that Warren defended are clearly put into the four Miranda warnings:

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

Not all the judges agreed with Warren's decision. Justice Tom C. Clark dissented from the majority opinion, arguing that the state police should inform suspects of their rights, but evidence from interrogations without informing suspects should still be admissible evidence. Justice Byron R. White also dissented but additionally believed interrogation did not coerce confessions from suspects. Both dissenting opinions believed that Warren's broad view of the Fifth Amendment would harm the criminal process.

These Miranda Warnings have been put into place since the *Miranda v. Arizona* decision and ensure the rights of anyone accused of a crime. These warnings must be expressed by police officers to anyone accused of a crime, defending their constitutional rights under the Fifth Amendment and enforcing their access to the knowledge of these rights.