Weingarten Rights!

Weingarten Rights. Know them, Use them! (SAVE THIS INFORMATION)

If you are unsure if they apply, ask for them anyway. Better to be safe than sorry.

Know your rights! Please read below!

Employee Rights in “Weingarten” Meetings – Know Them, Use Them!

Beware that management is not obligated to inform employees of their Weingarten rights — employees must ask for them. Unlike Miranda rights — where police are required to tell a suspect of his/her right to an attorney, etc. — employees must ask for their Weingarten rights.

Weingarten — State the following:
“If the discussion in this meeting could in any way lead to my being disciplined or terminated or impact on my personal working conditions, I request that my steward, local officer or union representative be present. Without union representation, I choose not to answer any further questions at this time. This is my right under a Supreme Court decision called Weingarten”.

Weingarten rights apply during investigatory interviews when a supervisor questions an employee to obtain information that could be used as grounds for discipline for either you or a colleague. When an employee believes such a meeting may lead to discipline, he/she has the right to request union representation.

These basic Weingarten rights stem from a Supreme Court’s decision.

• The employee must request representation before or during the meeting.
• After an employee makes the request, the supervisor has these choices:
  • grant the request and wait for the union representative's arrival;
  • deny the request and end the meeting immediately; or
• give the employee the choice of either ending the meeting or continuing without representation.
  (Never, ever, ever, continue without representation! EVER!)

If the supervisor denies the request and continues to ask questions, the employee has a right to refuse to answer!

In addition, the supervisor is committing an unfair labor practice.

As always, call your Chief Steward if you have questions or if you are unsure!

Please note: Do NOT think that you are bothering your steward if you have a question or a problem with your supervisor and/or management. That is what we are here for.

Table officer contact information is on the front cover.