

**Background:** The four cases that were combined under *Miranda v. Arizona*

Four cases were decided together by the US Supreme Court. In all of them a confession was obtained by the police during custodial interrogation without the defendants being previously apprised of their rights to counsel, or of their right to remain silent.

Case No. 759: after his arrest, Ernesto Miranda was taken to an interrogation room. He was not informed of his right to counsel or of his privilege against self-incrimination. He signed a typed-up confession, which included a paragraph stating that he made the confession voluntarily and with full understanding of his rights. Based on this confession, he was convicted in an Arizona state court of kidnapping and rape. The Supreme Court of Arizona affirmed.

Case No. 760: during his interrogation, Michael Vignera made an oral confession to the police, and then signed a statement when he was questioned by an assistant district attorney that evening. He was not apprised of his rights to counsel or of his right to remain silent. During trial, the defense was barred from mentioning those facts and the confession was admitted into evidence. New York Court of Appeals affirmed his conviction.

Case No. 761: Carl Westover was arrested in Kansas City in connection with robberies in Kansas, and was interrogated. He was then handed over to the FBI, and after two more hours of interrogation, he signed two confessions to robberies in California (federal offenses). Confessions made to the FBI were admitted as evidence at trial in the United States District Court for the Northern District of California. Although he was apprised of his rights prior to questioning by the FBI, the FBI interrogation took place immediately after 15 hours of police interrogation in the same room. The FBI, did not appraise the defendant of his rights prior to their questioning. Defendant's conviction was affirmed by the Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

Case No. 584: Roy Stewart was interrogated on 9 separate occasions during 5 days that he spent in a California police station. After denying his involvement in a kidnapping during eight of those interrogations, he finally confessed. The confession was introduced as evidence and he was convicted in state court. California Supreme Court reversed his conviction because he was never advised of his right to counsel or of his right to remain silent.

On certiorari the Supreme Court reversed Cases Nos. 759, 760 and 761 and affirmed Case NO. 584.

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