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MIRANDA V.

ARIZONA

Introduction

The famous and essential case of Miranda v. Arizona (1966) changed the criminal justice system of the United States. This case laid important principles that provide that a suspect must be informed of his/her rights, popularly referred to as the Miranda Rights. The consequences of this case persist as a reference point affecting the current operations of the police force and court cases.

Background of the Case

Ernesto Miranda was arrested in the year 1963 on charges of Kidnapping as well as rape. Miranda during the interrogation made admissions of charges against him without qualifying him the right to an attorney or his right to silence. This was relied on as evidence and since he confessed to the crime he was convicted. To Miranda's legal counsel it was pointed out that the confession had not been voluntary and that Miranda had not been enlightened about his constitutional rights hence a stage was set for police scrutiny.

Supreme Court Decision

Specifically, the Supreme Court of The United States of America ruled in the case of Miranda the decision as five points to four. The court stated that even police interrogation process is covered under the Fifth Amendment of the framers' privilege against self-incrimination. In the case, the chief justice Earl Warren stresses on his opinion that the privilege against self-incrimination must be protected by procedural safeguards. This paved the way for the creation of the Miranda Rights, which demand that the officers must read a suspect his/her rights before questioning.

Conclusion

What the *Miranda v. Arizona* case teaches is the proper administration of justice bearing in mind that it is within the police's prerogative to perform their duty diligently as it is individuals' rights within the constitution. The Supreme Court raised the bar for fairness in criminal justice by pointing out that suspects, being humans are deserving of their rights to be informed on their rights. This case continues to stand as one of the main case of American legal thinking; it sheds light on the historical development of civil liberties in the United States.

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