

Representation and Outcome

Criminal Justice

Representation, and its quality, is linked to how a case ends.

Representation is a determinant of process quality, not only a formal entitlement.

ACCESS BARRIER

Means tests and eligibility thresholds

STUDIED EFFECTS

Plea, bail and sentence outcomes

- Unrepresented defendants fare worse on process
- Early advice shapes the plea decision
- Legal aid scope and eligibility keep narrowing
- Caseload pressure limits preparation time
- Quality varies as much as availability does

LOOK FOR IT

Duty schemes cover a first hearing but not always the case that follows.

Educational reference. Legal aid systems differ fundamentally by country; this describes research, not entitlement.