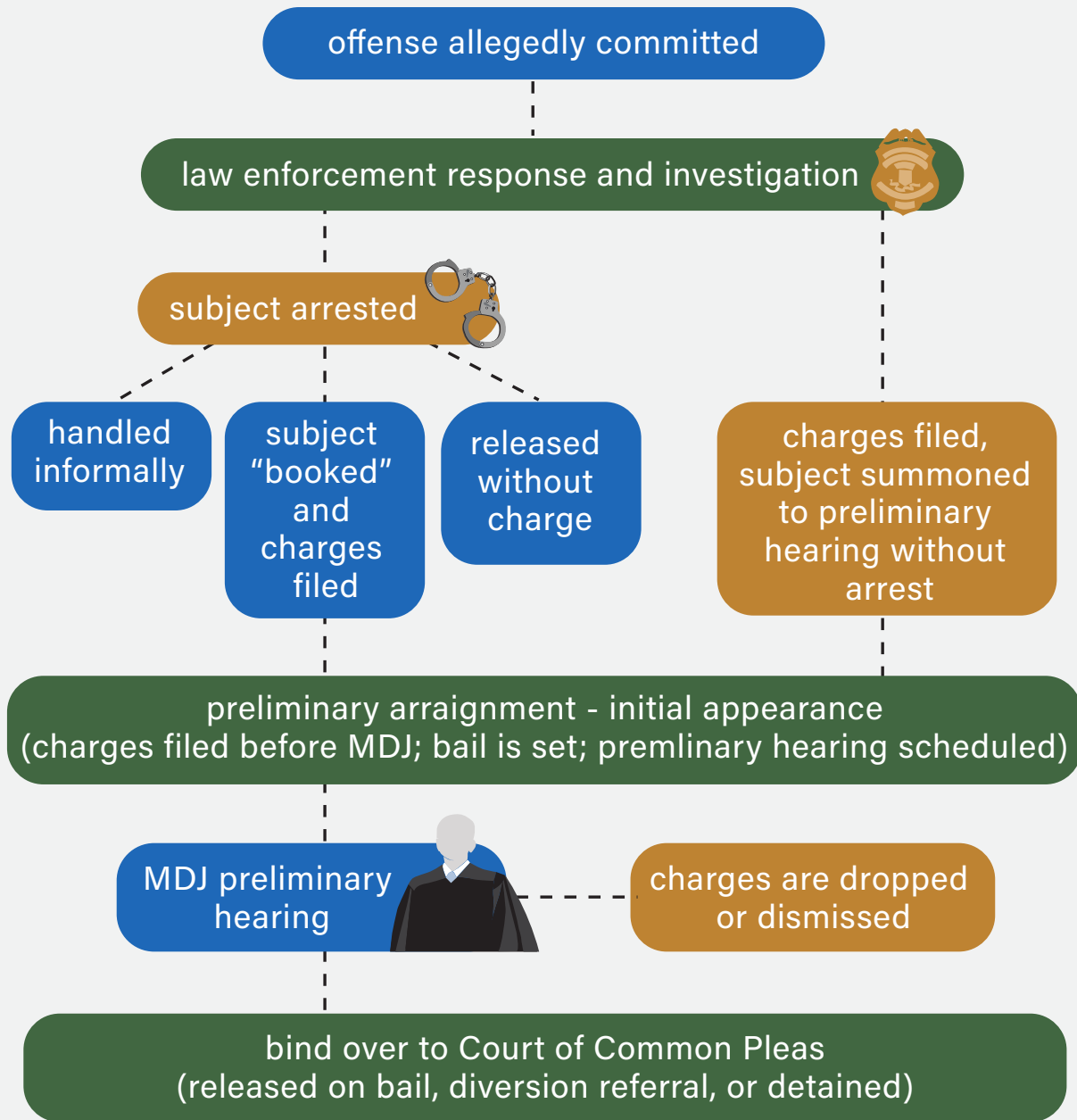


# Understanding the Criminal Case Process

## Magisterial District and Municipal Court System



# Court of Common Pleas System

formal arraignment (final charges are received in writing; guilty or not guilty plea entered; jury or nonjury trial requested)

pretrial actions (discovery, motions, pleas; in certain circumstances, either side may appeal the court's pretrial ruling)



pretrial conference  
trial or plea date is set



guilty plea

trial  
jury or judge



not guilty verdict  
case dismissed

presentence  
investigation



guilty  
verdict/conviction

offender sentenced



appeal  
upheld/overturned

if conviction overturned, either case dismissed, new trial or resentenced

if conviction is upheld, the defendant may seek relief in federal court and/or through state post-conviction process