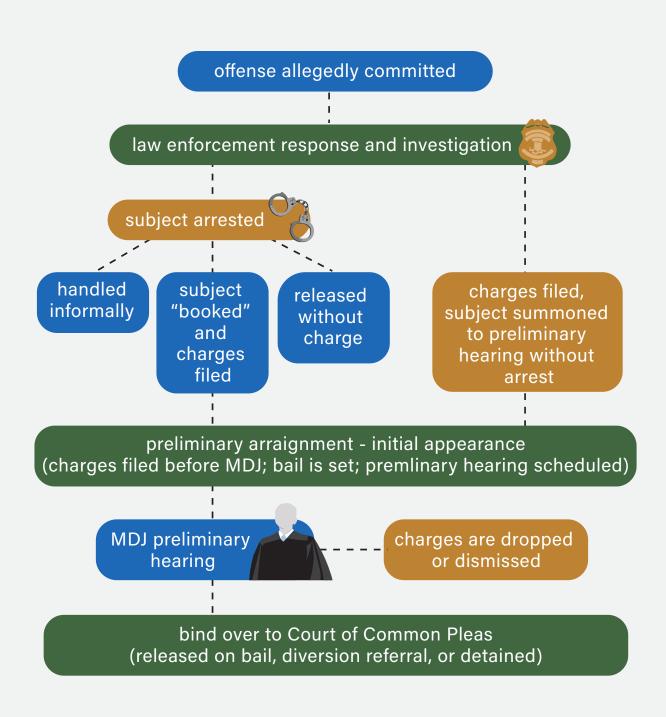
Understanding the Criminal Case Process

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 JŬŇE trial or plea date is set not guilty verdict guilty plea trial jury or judge case dismissed guilty presentence verdict/conviction investigation offender sentenced if conviction overturned, either case appeal upheld/overturned dismissed, new trial or resentenced if conviction is upheld, the defendant may seek relief in federal court and/or through state post-conviction process



