

Criminal Legal System Process Map for Kids

The criminal legal system process has many steps and can be very confusing. This map explains these steps, with the arrows showing the different things that can happen, so you can better understand your case. Definitions of the words that are underlined can be found in the 'Criminal Legal System Glossary.' For explanations of the practitioners' roles, please see the 'Who's Who?' section of the book for your age group.



Someone tells the police about a crime that may have happened, or the police see a crime happening on the street.



When the police respond, their first job is to make sure everyone is safe. Then they conduct an investigation by talking to people and gathering evidence to learn about what happened. The police write down information about what happened in a 'police report.'



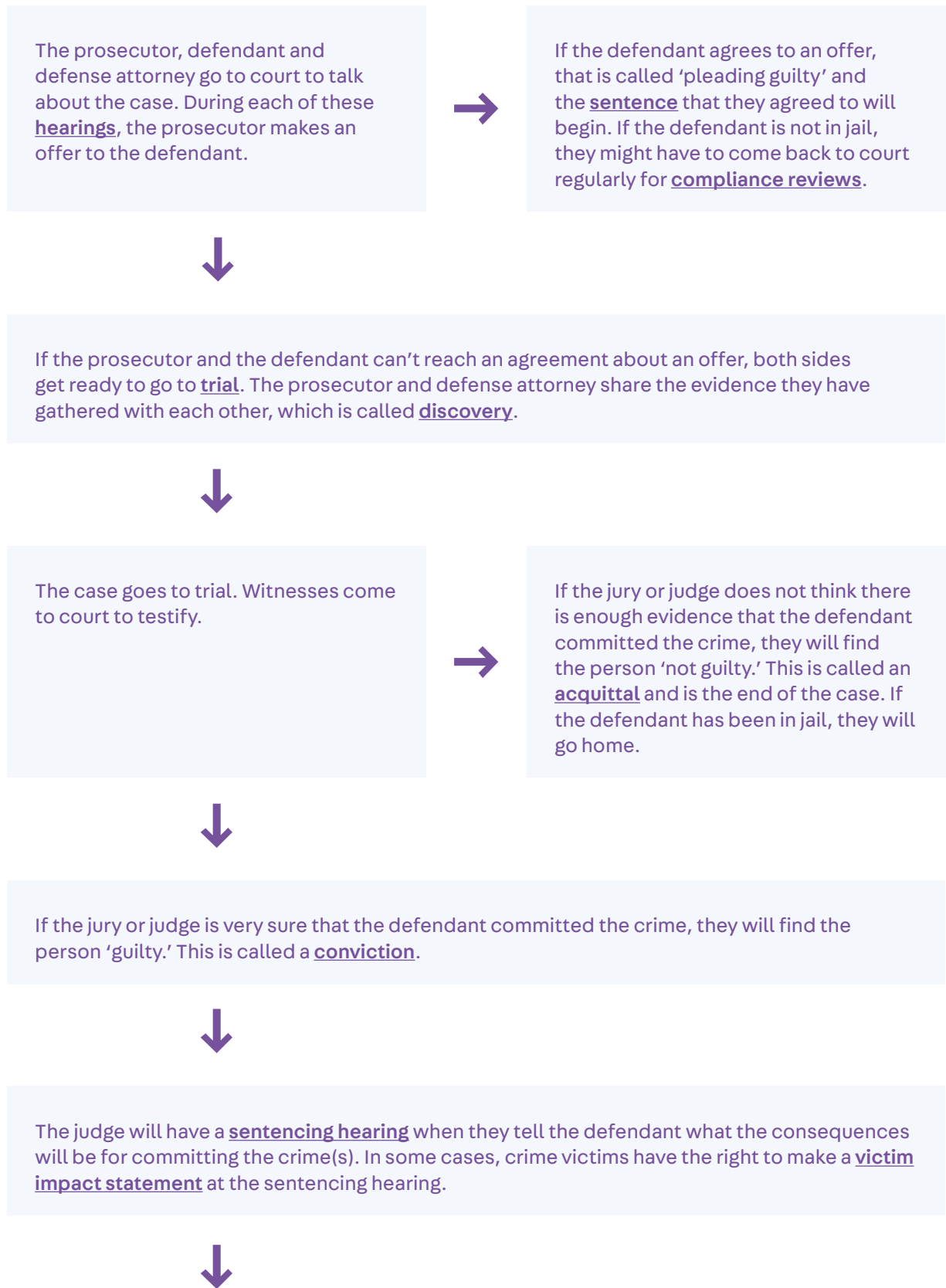
If the police think that a crime happened and they know who did it, they may arrest the person and take them to jail.



If the police can't find enough evidence that a crime happened, they may close the case. If the police don't know who committed the crime or if they can't find the person who did it, their investigation may continue.









For More Information

For training and technical assistance, visit us at innovatingjustice.org.

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