

Flow chart of the Criminal Justice System

Arrest	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A Person has committed crime(s) and warrant(s) have been taken out by an Officer or Civillian for the accused.
First Appearance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Defendant sees a Judge to determine bond eligibility. If a defendant makes bond after this hearing, the preliminary hearing is waived and the case moves to the Grand Jury phase.
Preliminary Hearing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A hearing to determine if the officer had enough probable cause to arrest the defendant.
Grand Jury	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A panel of 20 citizens from Clayton County listening to the testimony of the officer to determine whether the defendant should be indicted (true bill) dismissed (no billed) or if the additional charges should be added.
Arraignment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Defendant will plead guilty or not guilty. Most of the time the defendants will not come out (formal arraignment). If the defendant pleads guilty, case is closed.
Criminal Motions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Various Motions filed in regards to the case.
Pretrial Conference	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The case going before the Judge to make sure there aren't any outstanding motions or issues that would prevent the case from going to trial when scheduled.
Calendar Call	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Determines if the case is ready for trial and in what order the case will be heard once it's scheduled.
Trial	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A Panel of 14 Jurors (with 2 being alternates) listening to the evidence presented by both sides (state and defense) to determine if a defendant is guilty (Convicted) or not guilty (acquittal)
Sentencing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A phase of the Criminal Justice System that determines a defendant's punishment after he or is found guilty or has pleaded.