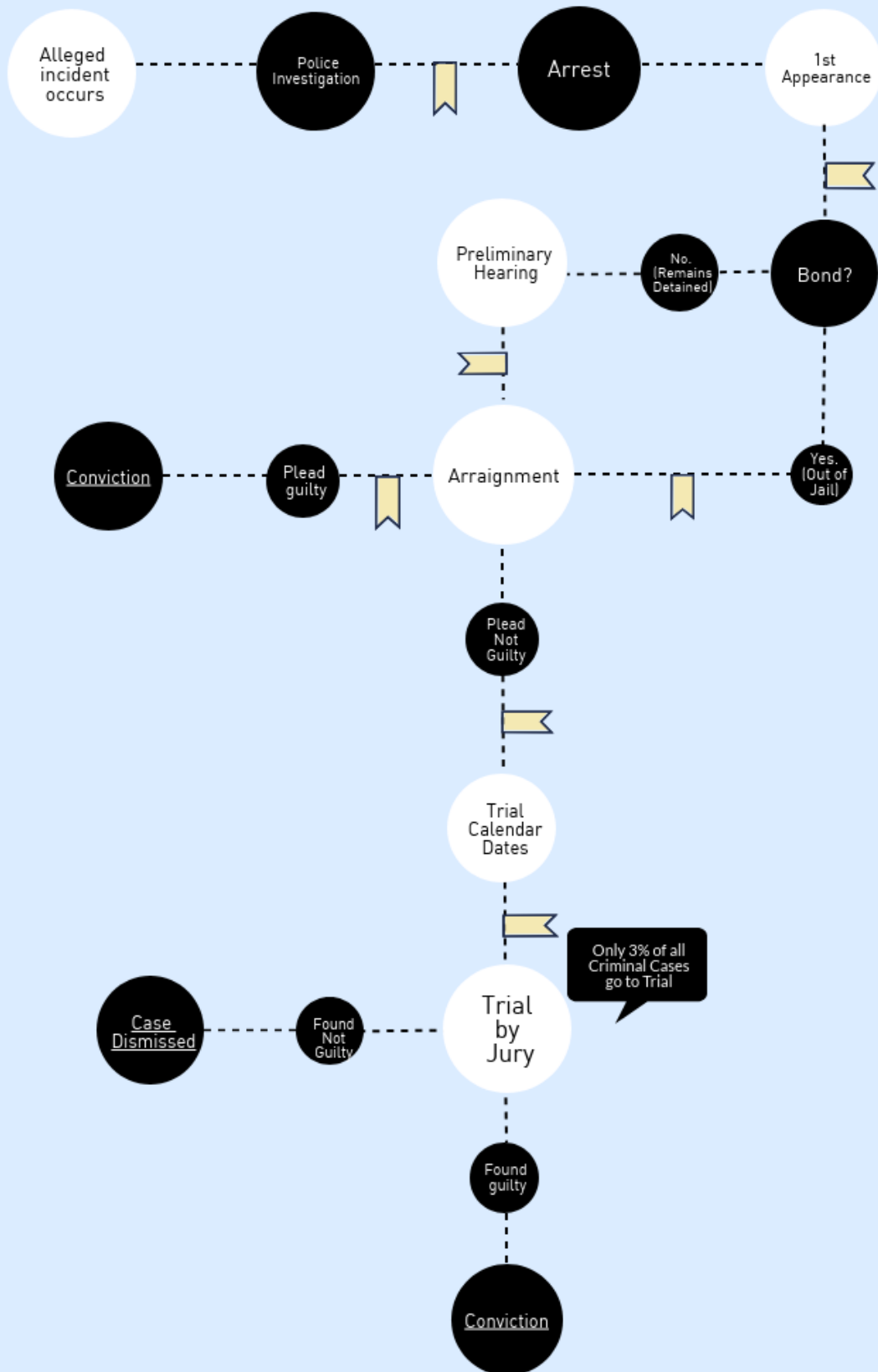


Steps of a Criminal Case



 = Opportunities to Negotiate with Prosecutor to resolve case



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1st Appearance

Purpose: For arrested person to hear the charges against them, to be advised of their rights, and for a Judge to consider a bond. Occurs within 72 hours of arrest.

Preliminary Hearing

Purpose: Government will present evidence for a Judge to determine if there is sufficient probable cause to support the continued detention of the Defendant. Your legal team can cross examine and argue against probable cause. Should occur within 90 days of arrest, but typically occurs 2-3 weeks after arrest.

Arraignment

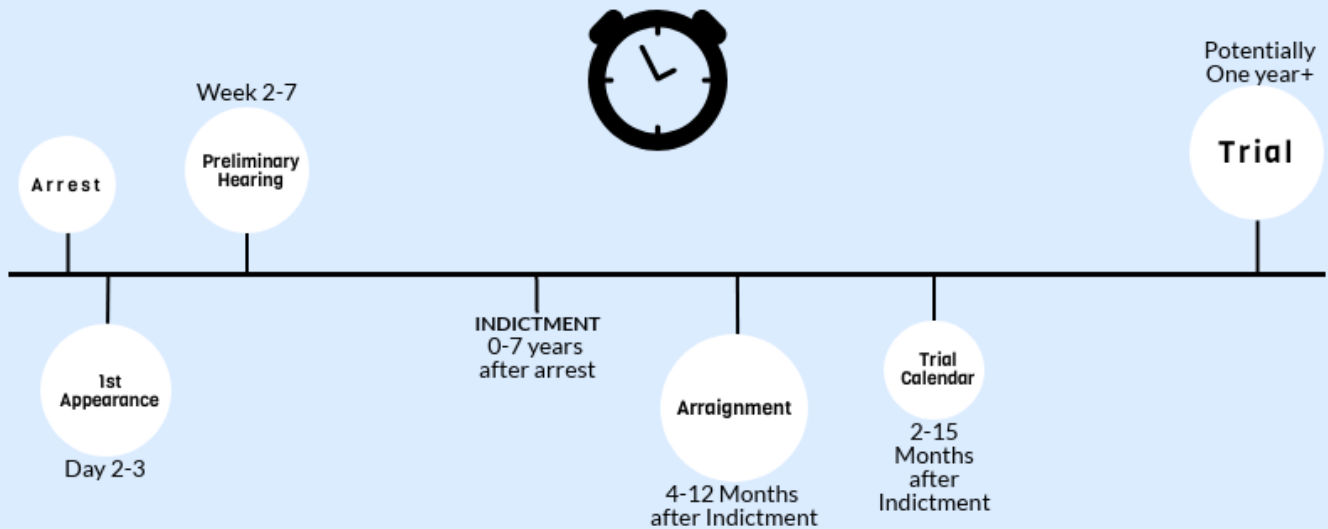
Purpose: Charges are formally brought forth. First opportunity to be brought before trial judge to have charges formal charges read in open court, and to enter plea of guilty or not guilty.

Trial Calendar Dates

Purpose: For Judge to determine which cases are ready for trial, which need to be continued, and which cases will be resolved with plea or dismissal

Trial By Jury

Purpose: In front of a Judge and a Jury, the Government must prove the Defendant's guilt 'beyond any reasonable doubt'. The burden is completely on the government to prove guilt.



* Timeline is an estimation. All case timelines vary based on jurisdiction.



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