New Hampshire Justice System: Felonies

Report

Most criminal charges, regardless of their level of seriousness, are begun either due to the report of a crime to the police, or direct detection of crime by the police.

More

Investigation

Criminal investigations may proceed in a variety of ways.

More

Arrest

When a law enforcement officer takes someone into their custody, they have performed an arrest.

More

Complaint

A written statement of criminal charges against a defendant.

More

District Court Arraignment

The hearing at which charges are formally presented to the defendant and at which an initial plea may be entered.

More

Probable Cause Hearing

In felony cases which originate by complaint rather than indictment, the district court will examine the evidence gathered by the police and prosecution to determine if there is sufficient evidence to keep the charges in place...

More

Grand Jury

A group of persons which hears the evidence to determine whether there is sufficient evidence to bring a potential defendant to trial.

More

Indictment

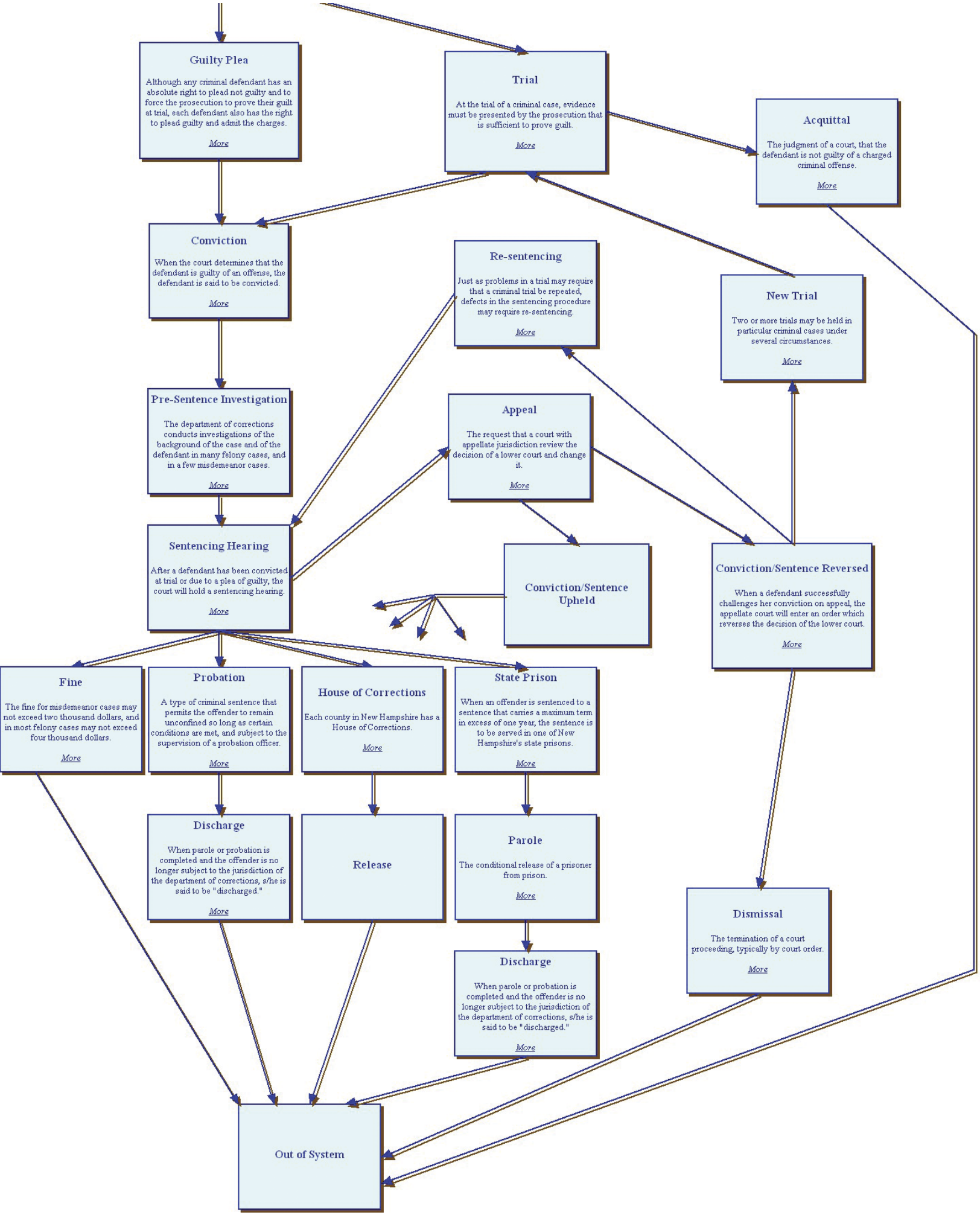
A formal accusation of crime handed up by the grand jury of the county in which the offense is alleged to have occurred.

More

Superior Court Arraignment

The hearing at which charges are formally presented to the defendant and at which an initial plea may be entered.

More


Guilty Plea
Although any criminal defendant has an absolute right to plead not guilty and to force the prosecution to prove their guilt at trial, each defendant also has the right to plead guilty and admit the charges.
More
Trial
At the trial of a criminal case, evidence must be presented by the prosecution that is sufficient to prove guilt.
More
Acquittal
The judgment of a court, that the defendant is not guilty of a charged criminal offense.
More
Conviction
When the court determines that the defendant is guilty of an offense, the defendant is said to be convicted.
More
Re-sentencing
Just as problems in a trial may require that a criminal trial be repeated, defects in the sentencing procedure may require re-sentencing.
More
New Trial
Two or more trials may be held in particular criminal cases under several circumstances.
More
Pre-Sentence Investigation
The department of corrections conducts investigations of the background of the case and of the defendant in many felony cases, and in a few misdemeanor cases.
More
Appeal
The request that a court with appellate jurisdiction review the decision of a lower court and change it.
More
Sentencing Hearing
After a defendant has been convicted at trial or due to a plea of guilty, the court will hold a sentencing hearing.
More
Conviction/Sentence Upheld
Conviction/Sentence Reversed
When a defendant successfully challenges her conviction on appeal, the appellate court will enter an order which reverses the decision of the lower court.
More
Fine
The fine for misdemeanor cases may not exceed two thousand dollars, and in most felony cases may not exceed four thousand dollars.
More
Probation
A type of criminal sentence that permits the offender to remain unconfined so long as certain conditions are met, and subject to the supervision of a probation officer.
More
House of Corrections
Each county in New Hampshire has a House of Corrections.
More
State Prison
When an offender is sentenced to a sentence that carries a maximum term in excess of one year, the sentence is to be served in one of New Hampshire's state prisons.
More
Discharge
When parole or probation is completed and the offender is no longer subject to the jurisdiction of the department of corrections, s/he is said to be "discharged."
More
Release
Parole
The conditional release of a prisoner from prison.
More
Dismissal
The termination of a court proceeding, typically by court order.
More
Discharge
When parole or probation is completed and the offender is no longer subject to the jurisdiction of the department of corrections, s/he is said to be "discharged."
More
Out of System