

RMvIc Believes Victims Rights Matter

Rocky Mountain Victim Law Center is a Colorado nonprofit organization providing free legal assistance to victims of violent crime to help enforce their rights under the Victims' Rights Act. RMvIc's mission is to transform the criminal justice system to consistently honor the voice of every victim and to vigorously safeguard victims' rights.

Support victims' rights in Colorado by donating to Rocky Mountain Victim Law Center, a 501c3.



Please learn more about Rocky Mountain Victim Law Center by visiting www.rmvictimlaw.org



Like RMvIc's Facebook page for updates about the latest victims' rights news and opportunities for giving.

Know Your Rights

You have the right to be treated with *fairness, dignity and respect*, which includes, but is not limited to, your right to:

- Privacy and safety
- Freedom from harassment or intimidation
- Court determined restitution
- Prompt return of property when it is no longer needed for evidence
- A safe, secure waiting area during court
- Support verifying court-related absences to work or school
- A swift and fair resolution of your case

You also have the right to be *informed and present* at all at critical stages in the court process and *heard* at certain critical stages (all stages * on the inside panels). These include, but are not limited to

- Any changes in the case including scheduling, bond modifications, and sentencing
- The right to be informed of petitions to cease sex offender registration or seal one's record
- To consult with the district attorney prior to a final determination on the case or before the case goes to trial
- Case status updates during investigation or prosecution

If you have questions about your rights as a victim of a violent crime, or believe your rights may have been violated, please contact Rocky Mountain Victim Law Center at: www.rmvictimlaw.org or 303.295.2001.

Understanding the Court Process and Your Rights



RMvIc

ROCKY MOUNTAIN victim law center

www.rmvictimlaw.org

303.295.2001

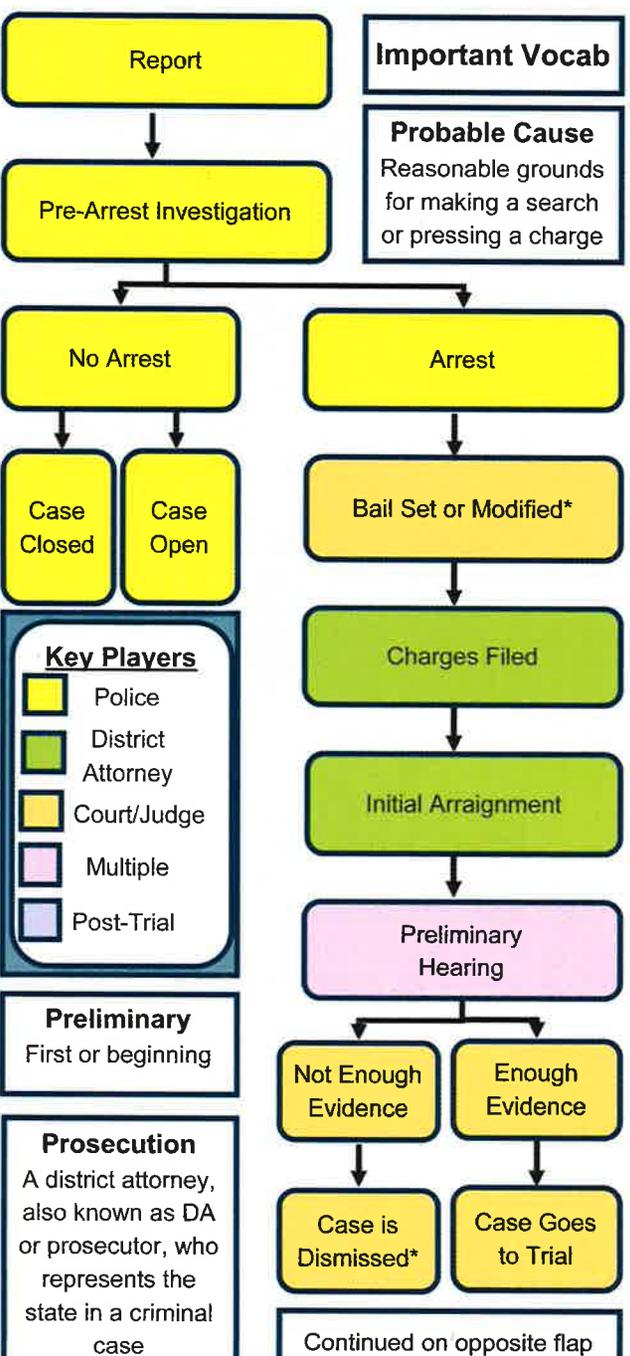
Pre-Trial Process

While all cases follow a similar path, there is no set timeline for any criminal case.

Important Vocabulary

Trial Process

While all cases follow a similar path, there is no set timeline for any criminal case.



Burden of proof
Duty of one party, at trial the prosecution, to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt

Defendant
An individual who is accused of committing a crime, this person is innocent until proven guilty

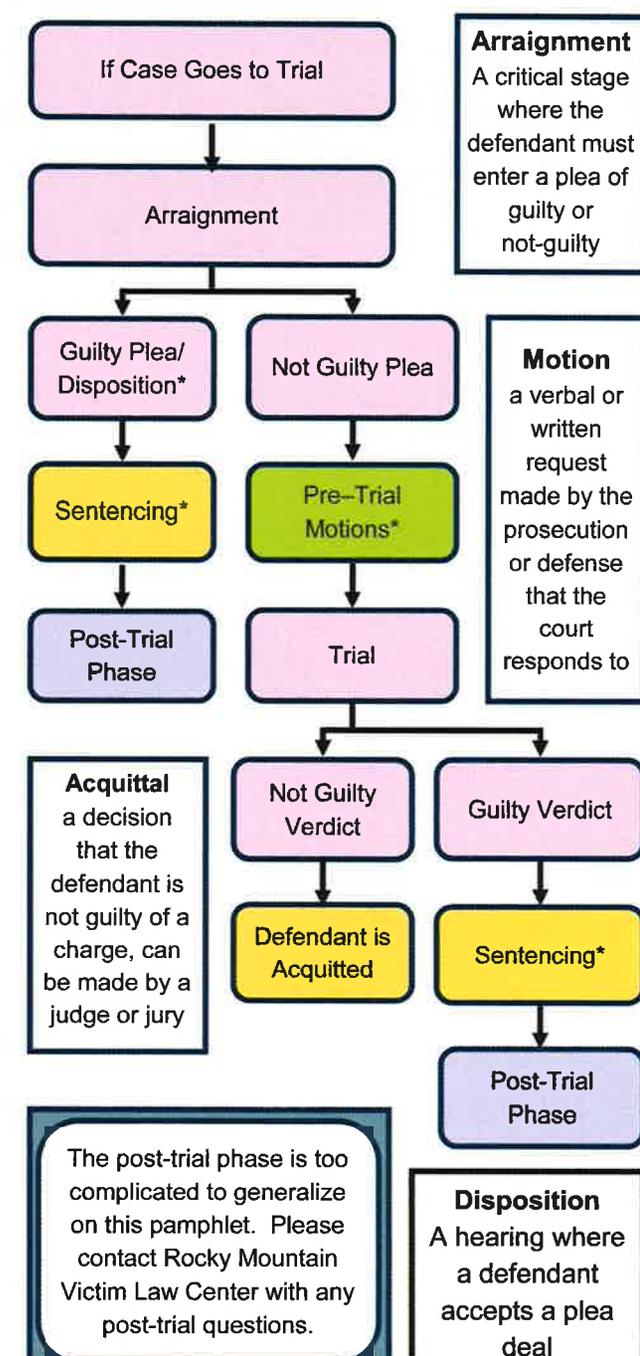
Defense Attorney
An attorney who represents the defendant

District Attorney
Also known as DA or prosecutor, they represent the state in a criminal case

People
In a criminal case, 'people' is a term used to represent the state, the entity bringing charges against the defendant

People v. ____
This is the name of the case, 'People' (see above) 'Versus' the last name of the defendant (ex: John Smith is the defendant, People v. Smith)

Plea
A formal statement regarding the defendant's guilt or innocence made at the arraignment



The above vocabulary is not a comprehensive list.
If you have questions about the court process please contact Rocky Mountain Victim Law Center.