

WHAT HAPPENS DURING A CRIMINAL CASE

...may be confusing to a victim or witness. The following summary will explain how a case generally progresses through Michigan's criminal justice system. Specific procedures may be modified by local courts or judges.

Step 1: Crime Committed / Police Notified

Step 2: Police Investigate

Step 3: Police Make an Arrest (or Request a Warrant)

Step 4: Warrant/Charging Request Reviewed by Prosecuting Attorney

Step 5: Warrant Issued

Step 6: Suspect Arrested

Step 7: District Court Arraignment

Step 8: Trial (Jury or Bench/Judge)

Step 9: Pre-Sentence Investigation and Report

Step 10: Sentence

Step 11: Appeals