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STAGES IN A FELONY CASE

Stage 1: Pre-Filing Investigation

- Before Case Begins in Court
 - Gather witness statements and other evidence
 - Negotiate case with arresting agency and/or prosecutor

Stage 2: Arraignment

- Your First Court Appearance
 - Enter a not guilty plea
 - Demand discovery
 - Set bail review date
 - Set Readiness Conference #1 date
 - Set Preliminary Hearing date

Stage 3: Bail Review

- 3 days After Arraignment
 - Motion to reduce bail
 - Bring witnesses/docs
 - O.R. Release/post bail

Stage 4: Readiness Conference #1

- 1st Settlement Conference
 - Discuss settlement with the judge and prosecutor
 - File motions

Stage 5: Preliminary Hearing

- District Attorney Puts on Evidence
 - DA puts on witnesses to establish probable cause
 - Good place to show witness as wrong or lying
 - Defense attacks charges
 - Argue motions

Stage 6: Arraignment in Trial Court

- 2-4 Weeks After Preliminary Hearing
 - Negotiate case with DA
 - File any motions
 - Set pre-trial dates
 - Get ready for plea bargain at Readiness Conference #2

Stage 7: Readiness Conference #2

- Settlement Opportunity
 - Discuss witnesses/trial issues
 - Set motion hearing dates
 - Prepare for trial

Stage 8: Motions

- Hearing on the Motions Filed
 - Argue motions previously filed
 - Review trial strategy
 - Subpoena witnesses
 - Prepare for trial
 - 995 motion (challenge evidence)
 - Discovery motions

Stage 9: Trial

- Jury Trial
 - Motions in Limine
 - Pick a jury (“voir dire”)
 - Opening statements
 - Prosecution puts on its case
 - Mid trial motions
 - Defense puts on its case
 - End of trial motions
 - Closing arguments
 - Verdict (Not Guilty!)