



The Court and the Legal Process



JUDGE

ROLES ARE:
REFEREE

DECIDES SENTENCE/PUNISHMENT

NEUTRAL- THE JUDGE IS NOT WITH YOU OR
AGAINST YOU.



PUBLIC DEFENDER VS STATE ATTORNEY

PD=DEFEND YOU, on your side
SA=AGAINST YOU



PLEA BARGAIN

AGREEMENT MADE BETWEEN YOU AND YOUR
PUBLIC DEFENDER AND STATE ATTORNEY FOR:

1. PLEAD GUILTY OR NO CONTEST TO A LESSER CHARGE AND GET A LESSER SENTENCE
2. IF MULTIPLE CHARGES, TO PLEA GUILTY TO SOME CHARGES (NOT ALL)
3. PLEA GUILTY AS CHARGE FOR A SPECIFIC SENTENCE

*****DENY YOUR RIGHTS TO TRIAL*****



JURY

1. 6-12 PEOPLE
2. FROM YOUR COUNTY/COMMUNITY

ROLE:

1. DECIDES IF YOU ARE GUILTY OR NOT GUILTY

NEUTRAL- NOT WITH YOU OR AGAINST YOU



WITNESS

1. GIVES SPECIFIC INFORMATION ABOUT THE CRIME
2. SOME MAY BE TO HELP YOUR CASE
3. OTHERS MAY BE TO HURT YOUR CASE



CONTEMPT OF COURT

YOU MUST BEHAVE IN THE COURT ROOM. IF YOU MISBEHAVE, YOU MAY BE DETAINED AND GIVEN ANOTHER CHARGE OF CONTEMPT OF COURT!

FELONY- DEPENDING ON YOUR CHARGE, WORST OUTCOME IS GOING TO PRISON.

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN PRISON AND JAIL:

PRISON- *MORE* THAN 1 YEAR IN CUSTODY
JAIL- *LESS* THAN 1 YEAR IN CUSTODY

MISDEMEANOR- DEPENDING ON YOUR CHARGE,
WORST OUTCOME IS LESS THAN A YEAR IN JAIL.

4 POSSIBLE PLEAS

1. GUILTY (POSSIBLE PLEA BARGAIN)
2. NOT GUILTY (TAKE YOUR CASE TO TRIAL)
3. NO CONTEST (POSSIBLE PLEA BARGAIN)
4. NGI (NOT GUILTY BY REASON OF INSANITY)
* CONDITIONAL RELEASE

PROBATION

STRICT RULES:

1. MUST REPORT TO PROBATION OFFICER
ATLEAST ONCE A MONTH
2. MONTHLY AMOUNT WILL NEED TO BE PAID
3. REGULAR DRUG TESTING
4. OTHER CONDITIONS MAY APPLY