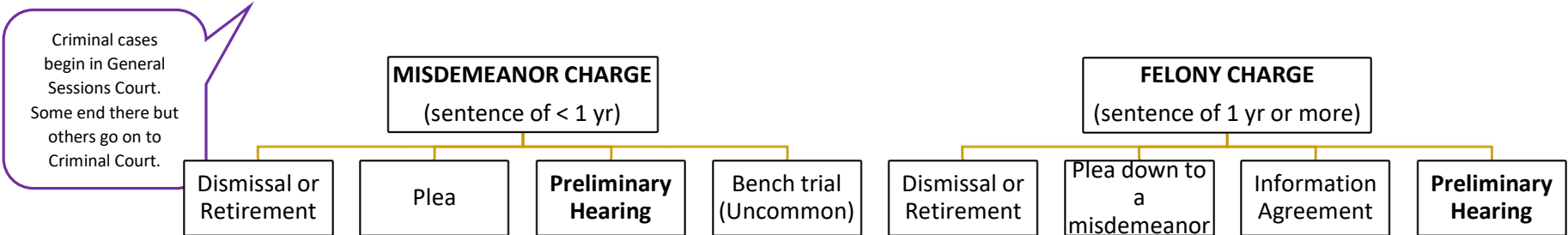


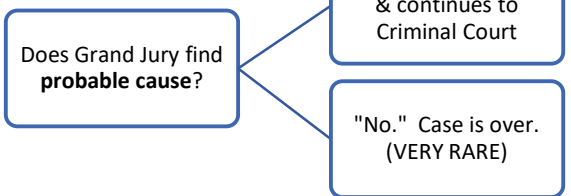
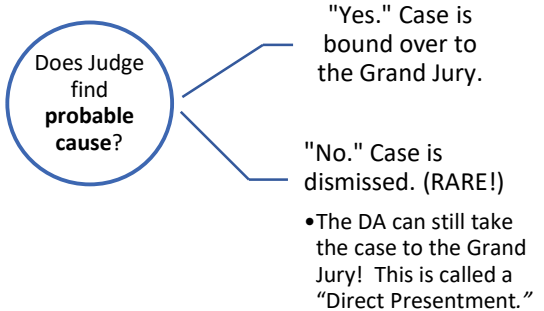
YOUR CRIMINAL CASE IN GENERAL SESSIONS COURT IN TENNESSEE



- Testimony from officers /witnesses
- Judge decides if there is **probable cause** to bind over to the Grand Jury.

- Group of 12 ordinary citizens
- The police and DA present evidence to the Grand Jury
- You cannot testify and your lawyer cannot participate.
- The Grand Jury determines (again!) if probable cause exists.

- Your attorney can get discovery from the DA. Discovery is the evidence that the state intends to use against you.
- There may be motions filed about various matters, such as excluding evidence.
- You may enter a plea agreement.
- You may have a trial with a jury.
- The state is required to prove your guilt **beyond a reasonable doubt** in order to convict you.



There is usually a Grand Jury backlog. It can take 3 or more months to get from the preliminary hearing to criminal court.

What is PROBABLE CAUSE?

- A **reasonable basis** for believing a crime was committed and that you committed it.
- Very little evidence is required. Testimony from an officer or witness is usually sufficient.