

Definitions:

***Arraignment** – The preliminary step taken by the court in a criminal prosecution when a criminal defendant is brought before the court to hear the charges, be advised of his rights, and enter a plea.

***Arrest Warrant** – Criminal court order directing a law-enforcement officer to arrest and bring a criminal defendant to court.

***Court Trial** – Both parties can agree to allow a judge to hear the evidence and determine if the defendant is guilty of the charge.

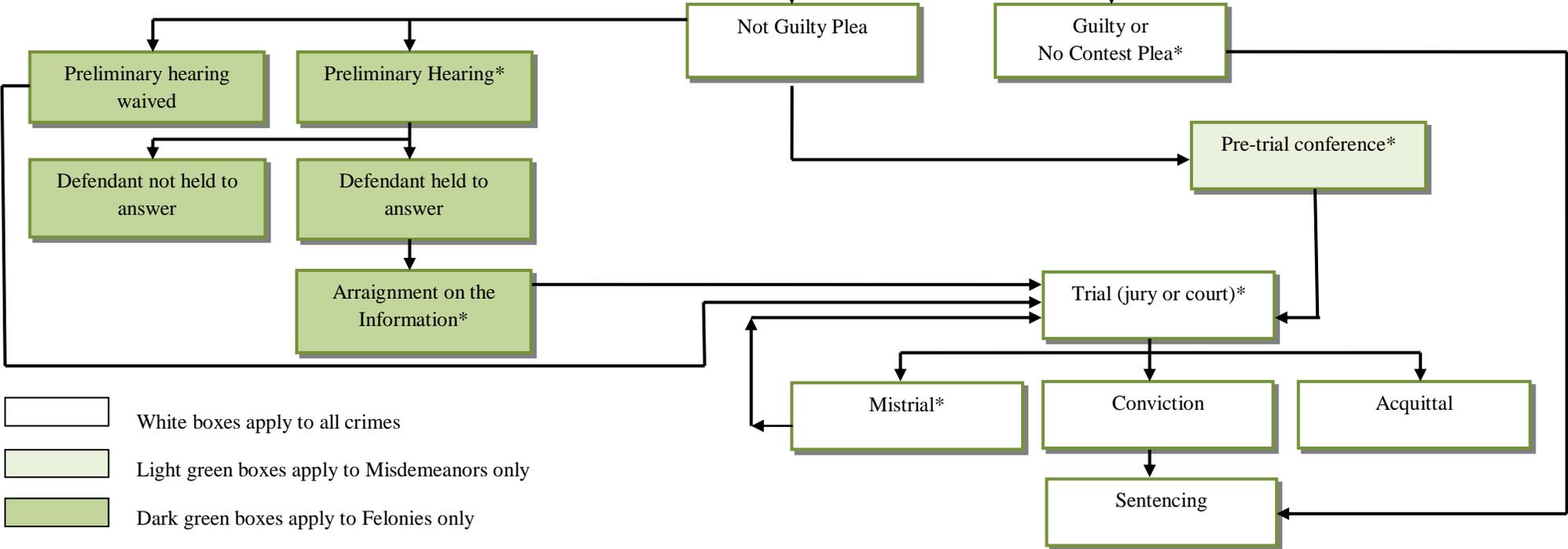
***Information** – Formal written criminal charge made by the prosecution, pursuant to a holding order by a criminal court. (See Preliminary Hearing)

***Jury Trial** – 12 members of the community to hear the evidence and determine if a defendant is guilty of the charge.

***Mistrial** – A trial that the judge brings to an end without a determination on the merits because of a procedural error or serious misconduct during the proceedings. In a criminal trial, when the jury cannot agree on a verdict unanimously, the judge usually rules that there is a mistrial.

***No Contest Plea** – A defendant may enter a “No Contest” plea without admitting guilt if he does not wish to contest the charges. For criminal court purposes, a “No Contest” plea has the same effect as a “Guilty” plea.

***Preliminary Hearing** – Criminal court hearing to determine whether there is sufficient evidence to prosecute a felony. The prosecution presents evidence to show that there is probably cause that a public offense occurred and that the defendant probably committed the



- White boxes apply to all crimes
- Light green boxes apply to Misdemeanors only
- Dark green boxes apply to Felonies only