

# Felony Case Overview

## Step 1: Arrest

- Occurs within 48-72 hours of arrest
- Bond is set
- Decide whether to waive or demand a preliminary hearing
- Public Defender is present to represent defendants

Case moves to  
Common Pleas

## Step 2: Initial Appearance in Municipal Court

## Step 3 (optional): First Appearance in Common Pleas

- These hearings *may* occur if the preliminary hearing is waived in Municipal Court but a hearing will not be held if the case is indicted prior to the preliminary hearing happening
- Bond is reviewed
- An attorney is assigned
- The Public Defender will represent any client who does not have counsel at this hearing

## Step 4: Grand Jury

- The Grand Jury determines if there is probable cause and either returns an indictment or no bills the case.

## Step 5: Felony Arraignment

- Defendant enters a not guilty plea
- A judge and attorney are assigned
- Bond is reviewed
- The first pre-trial is set
- The Public Defender will represent any client who does not have counsel at this hearing

## Step 6: Pre Trial and Case Resolution

- Multiple pre-trials are held during the case
- A case resolution happens that can include dismissal, plea, or a trial
- If convicted, then a sentencing hearing occurs



Cuyahoga County Public Defender Office: 216 443 7223  
The Bail Project: 216 772 3436 <https://bailproject.org/cleveland/>

**THE BAIL PROJECT**

If your bond is \$10,000 10% or \$5,000 cash or less - and you are an eligible candidate the Bail Project will post your bond for free. Please note if the bond amount is higher it will require special approval.