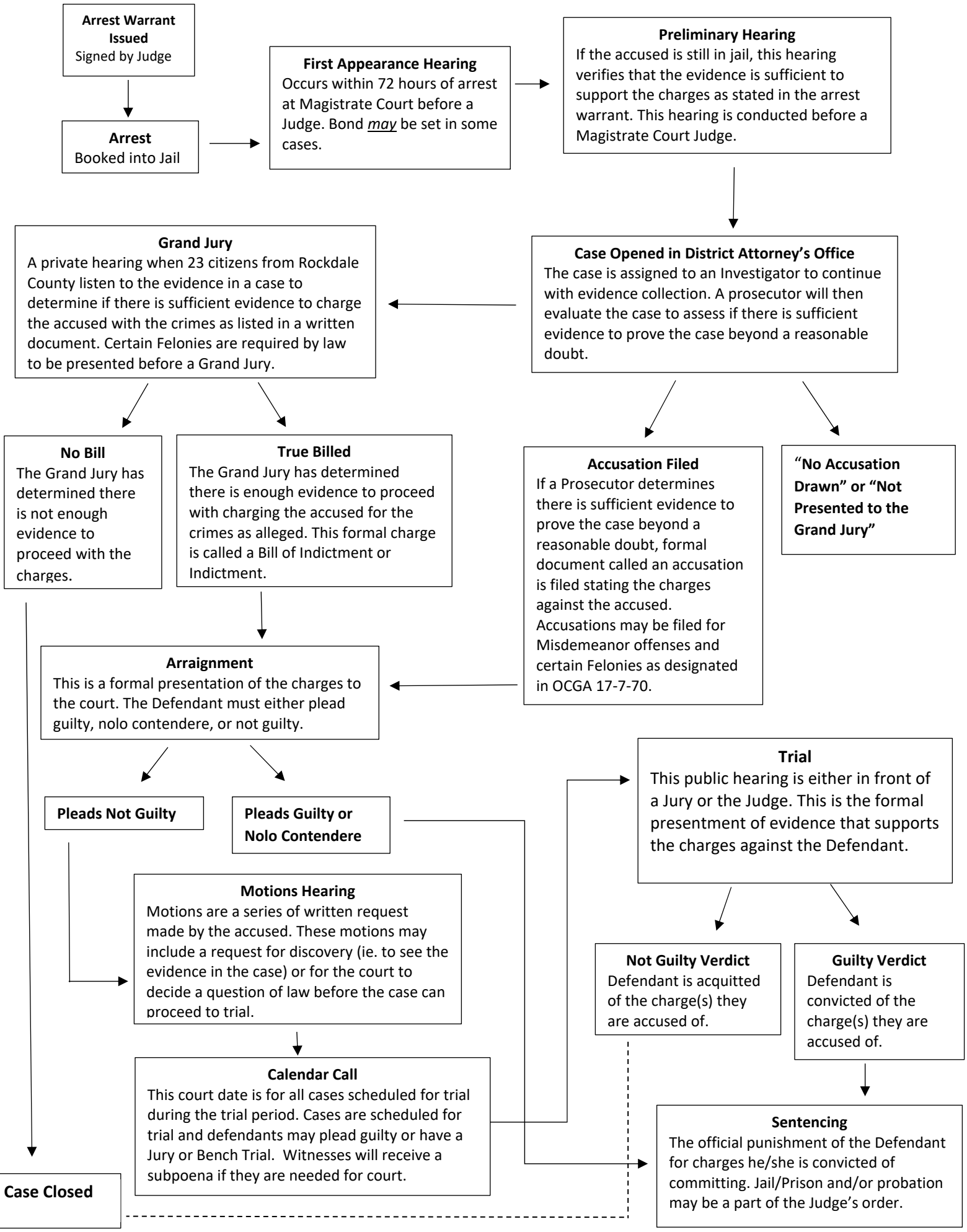
Arrest Warrant Issued
Signed by Judge
Arrest
Booked into Jail
First Appearance Hearing
Occurs within 72 hours of arrest at Magistrate Court before a Judge. Bond may be set in some cases.
Preliminary Hearing
If the accused is still in jail, this hearing verifies that the evidence is sufficient to support the charges as stated in the arrest warrant. This hearing is conducted before a Magistrate Court Judge.
Case Opened in District Attorney's Office
The case is assigned to an Investigator to continue with evidence collection. A prosecutor will then evaluate the case to assess if there is sufficient evidence to prove the case beyond a reasonable doubt.
Grand Jury
A private hearing when 23 citizens from Rockdale County listen to the evidence in a case to determine if there is sufficient evidence to charge the accused with the crimes as listed in a written document. Certain Felonies are required by law to be presented before a Grand Jury.
No Bill
The Grand Jury has determined there is not enough evidence to proceed with the charges.
True Billed
The Grand Jury has determined there is enough evidence to proceed with charging the accused for the crimes as alleged. This formal charge is called a Bill of Indictment or Indictment.
Accusation Filed
If a Prosecutor determines there is sufficient evidence to prove the case beyond a reasonable doubt, formal document called an accusation is filed stating the charges against the accused. Accusations may be filed for Misdemeanor offenses and certain Felonies as designated in OCGA 17-7-70.
"No Accusation Drawn" or "Not Presented to the Grand Jury"
Arraignment
This is a formal presentation of the charges to the court. The Defendant must either plead guilty, nolo contendere, or not guilty.
Pleads Not Guilty
Pleads Guilty or Nolo Contendere
Trial
This public hearing is either in front of a Jury or the Judge. This is the formal presentment of evidence that supports the charges against the Defendant.
Motions Hearing
Motions are a series of written request made by the accused. These motions may include a request for discovery (ie. to see the evidence in the case) or for the court to decide a question of law before the case can proceed to trial.
Not Guilty Verdict
Defendant is acquitted of the charge(s) they are accused of.
Guilty Verdict
Defendant is convicted of the charge(s) they are accused of.
Calendar Call
This court date is for all cases scheduled for trial during the trial period. Cases are scheduled for trial and defendants may plead guilty or have a Jury or Bench Trial. Witnesses will receive a subpoena if they are needed for court.
Sentencing
The official punishment of the Defendant for charges he/she is convicted of committing. Jail/Prison and/or probation may be a part of the Judge's order.
Case Closed