



# GRIFFIN LAW OFFICE, APC

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## **STAGES IN A MISDEMEANOR CASE**

### **Stage 1: Pre-Filing Investigation / Pre-Filing Negotiation**

- Before Case Begins in Court
  - Gather witness statements and other evidence
  - Negotiate case with arresting agency and/or prosecutor

### **Stage 2: Arraignment**

- Your First Court Appearance
  - Enter a not guilty plea
  - Demand discovery
  - Set date for Readiness Conference
  - Argue restraining/protective orders

### **Stage 3: Readiness Conference**

- Trial Setting Department (TSD)
  - Two weeks after arraignment if no time waiver
  - Negotiate the case with the prosecutor- possible plea bargain
  - Make sure discovery is in order
  - File motions

### **Stage 4: Motions**

- Hearing on the Motions Filed
  - Argue Motion to Suppress
  - Argue Discovery Motions
  - Review trial strategy
  - Subpoena witnesses
  - Prepare for trial

### **Stage 5: Trial**

- Jury Trial
  - Motions in Limine (pre-trial motions)
  - Pick a jury (“voir dire”)
  - Opening statements
  - Prosecution puts on its case
  - Defense puts on its case
  - Closing arguments
  - Verdict (Not Guilty!)