

- A civil trial begins when a plaintiff files a complaint with the court. The court notifies the defendant that a suit has been filed. The defendant must file an answer to the complaint with a certain time period.
- The most common methods of discovery are depositions, interrogatories, requests for documents and other evidence, physical and mental examinations, and requests for admission.
- A trial consists of seven steps: jury selection, presentation of opening statements, introduction of evidence, presentation of closing arguments, instructions to the jury, the jury's verdict, and the court's judgment.
- People who are arrested have the following rights: know the crime(s) with which they are charged; know the names of the officers making the arrest; use the telephone; remain silent; have an attorney present during questioning; have the court appoint an attorney to represent them free of charge if they cannot afford one.
- Police officers may conduct a search when they have permission from the person searched or a search warrant. They may conduct a limited search of a car when someone in the car is arrested. They may conduct a more complete search of a car when there is good reason to believe that something illegal is hidden in the car. They may seize illegal items that are in plain view without a warrant.
- A grand jury conducts a preliminary hearing to determine whether someone must stand trial for committing a crime. A petit jury decides whether the person on trial is guilty or innocent.
- Juvenile court cases usually include three hearings: a detention hearing, an adjudicatory hearing, and a dispositional hearing.
- The objective of the juvenile court is rehabilitation. With that in mind, the court may place the offender on probation and allow him or her to return home, place the offender in an agency or foster home, or commit the offender to a training school or reformatory.



Chapter 6 Vocabulary

complaint – a legal document containing a short and plain statement of the plaintiff's claim against the defendant in a civil case.

answer – a formal written document that admits or denies each allegation of the complaint and states any defenses that the defendant plans to use.

judgment – the court's determination or decision in a case.

arrest – this is when a person is deprived of his or her freedom.

bail – money or other property that is left with the court to assure the court that the person will return to trial

grand jury – a jury of inquiry. It is a jury that determines whether there is enough evidence to justify accusing certain persons of certain crimes.

indictment – a written accusation issued by the grand jury charging the individual or individuals named in it with a certain crime.

arraignment – a procedure in which the accused is brought before the court, read the indictment or information, and asked to plead guilty or not guilty.

verdict – the decision of the jury

detention hearing – a hearing to find out if there are good reasons for keeping the accused in custody and whether or not there are special circumstances affecting the case.

