What is the sequence of events in the criminal justice system?

Entry into the system

Prosecution and pretrial services

Adjudication

Sentencing and sanctions

Corrections

- Entry into the system
  - Reported and observed crime
    - Investigated
    - Arrest
    - Charges filed

- Prosecution and pretrial services
  - Charges dropped or dismissed
  - Preliminary hearing
    - Bail or detention hearing

- Adjudication
  - Refusal to indict
  - Grand jury
  - Information
  - Arraignment
  - Reduction of charge
  - Charge dismissed
  - Acquitted
  - Guilty plea
  - Trial

- Sentencing and sanctions
  - Convicted
  - Sentencing
  - Guilty plea
  - Appeal

- Corrections
  - Probation
  - Parole
  - Pardon & clemency
  - Capital punishment
  - Jail
  - Probation or other nonresidential disposition
  - Residency placement
  - Aftercare
  - Revocation

Note: This chart gives a simplified view of caseflow through the criminal justice system. Procedures vary among jurisdictions. The weights of the lines are not intended to show actual size of caseloads.

Source: Adapted from The challenge of crime in a free society. President's Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Justice, 1967. This revision, a result of the Symposium on the 30th Anniversary of the President's Commission, was prepared by the Bureau of Justice Statistics in 1997.