

STEPS IN A U.S. CRIMINAL TRIAL

Steps before the trial:

1. Violation of criminal law
2. The Indictment
3. Plea is entered
4. Lawyers prepare for trial

Steps in the courtroom before the trial:

5. Call to order by bailiff and reading of the charges
6. Jury selection
7. Swearing in of jury

The trial begins:

8. Opening statement by Prosecution
9. Opening statement by Defendant
10. Swearing in of witness (occurs with each new witness)
11. Direct examination of Prosecution Witness #1
12. Cross examination of Prosecution Witness #1
13. Direct examination of Prosecution Witness #2
14. Cross examination of Prosecution Witness #2
15. Direct examination of Prosecution Witness #3
16. Cross examination of Prosecution Witness #3
17. Direct examination of Defense Witness #1
18. Cross examination of Defense Witness #1
19. Direct examination of Defense Witness #2
20. Cross examination of Defense Witness #2
21. Direct examination of Defense Witness #3
22. Cross examination of Defense Witness #3
23. Closing argument by Prosecution
24. Closing argument by Defendant
25. Rebuttal by Prosecution

If you have a jury:

26. Judge's instructions to jury
27. Choosing jury foreperson
28. Jury deliberations
29. Jury announces verdict
30. If verdict is guilty, punishment is decided later
31. If verdict is not guilty, case dismissed