

Division: Law

Specialization: private Law

(Second Year)

Key Criminal Procedure Terminologies with Definitions

1. **Criminal Procedure**
The set of legal rules governing the process of criminal investigation, prosecution, and trial.
2. **Public Prosecution / Prosecutor**
The legal authority responsible for investigating and prosecuting crimes on behalf of the state.
3. **Accused / Defendant**
A person formally charged with committing a crime.
4. **Presumption of Innocence**
The principle that a person is considered innocent until proven guilty.
5. **Investigation**
The process of collecting evidence and examining facts related to a crime.
6. **Police Custody (Garde à vue)**
The detention of a suspect by the police for a limited period during the investigation.
7. **Pre-Trial Detention**
Holding the accused in custody before trial if there is a legal reason to do so.
8. **Judicial Police (Police Judiciaire)**
Law enforcement officers responsible for conducting criminal investigations under judicial supervision.
9. **Indictment**
A formal accusation that a person has committed a crime, leading to trial.
10. **Examining Magistrate (Investigating Judge)**
A judge responsible for overseeing the preliminary investigation and deciding whether the case should go to trial.
11. **Search Warrant**
A legal authorization to search a person, property, or premises for evidence.
12. **Arrest Warrant**
A judicial order authorizing the arrest of a suspect.
13. **Interrogation**
The formal questioning of a suspect or witness by the police or judicial authorities.
14. **Charge**
A formal accusation of a specific criminal offense.

15. Trial

A formal judicial examination of evidence to determine guilt or innocence.

16. Criminal Court

The court responsible for judging criminal cases, such as misdemeanors or felonies.

17. Defense Counsel

The lawyer representing the accused in a criminal case.

18. Verdict

The decision of the court regarding the guilt or innocence of the accused.

19. Sentence

The punishment imposed by the court on a person found guilty of a crime.

20. Appeal

A legal request for a higher court to review and possibly change the decision of a lower court.

21. Acquittal

A court decision that the accused is not guilty of the charges.

22. Conviction

A formal declaration that the accused is guilty of a criminal offense.

23. Criminal Record

An official record of a person's criminal convictions.

24. Plea Bargain

An agreement where the accused pleads guilty in exchange for a lighter sentence.

25. Double Jeopardy

The legal principle that a person cannot be tried twice for the same crime.