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| 1 | **Accused** | The person against whom an accusation is made; one who is charged with a crime or traffic infraction. |
| 2 | **Admissible** | Pertinent and proper to be considered in reaching a decision. Refers to the evidence considered in determining the issues to be decided in any judicial proceeding. |
| 3 | **Aggravating Factor** | A fact or circumstance associated with a criminal act that makes it more serious or injurious. |
| 4 | **Alleged** | Claimed; asserted; charged. |
| 5 | **Alias** | "Otherwise called," indicating one was called by one or the other of two names. |
| 6 | **Bail** | The release of a person from legal custody by a written agreement that he shall appear at the time and place designated and submit himself to the jurisdiction of the court and observe the requirements set forth in the recognizance |
| 7 | **Contempt of court** | Any act which is calculated to embarrass, hinder, or obstruct the court in administration of justice, or which is calculated to lessen its authority or its dignity. |
| 8 | **Continuance** | A postponement of further proceedings in a hearing, trial, or other judicial proceeding until a later date. |
| 9 | **Convict** | To find a person guilty of a criminal charge. |
| 10 | **Court order** | A command or mandatory direction of a judge which is made during a case. Also includes a command of the judge which establishes courtroom or administrative procedures. |
| 11 | **Crime** | A positive or negative act in violation of penal law; an offense against the state classified either as a felony or misdemeanour. |
| 12 | **Cross-examination** | The examination of a witness upon a trial or hearing, or upon taking a deposition, by the party opposed to the one who put him on the witness stand to testify. |
| 13 | **Custody** | The detainment of a person by virtue of lawful process or authority; actual imprisonment. |
| 14 | **Damages** | Money awarded by the court to a person harmed by the unlawful or negligent act of another. |
| 15 | **Defendant** | The party against whom relief or recovery is sought in a court action or suit. Sometimes used to designate the accused in criminal or traffic cases. |
| 16 | **Detention** | The holding of a person in custody or confinement. |
| 17 | **Direct Examination** | The initial questioning of a witness by the party who called the witness. |
| 18 | **Dismissal** | An order disposing of an action, suit, etc., without trial. |
| 19 | **Evidence** | All the means by which a matter of fact, the truth of which is submitted for investigation, is established or disproved. |
| 20 | **Finding** | The result of the deliberations of a court. |
| 21 | **Guilty** | Responsible for committing a criminal offense or a traffic infraction. The word used by an accused in pleading to the charges when he confesses to committing the crime of which he is charged. It is also used by the judge if he finds that the accused committed a criminal offense or a traffic infraction. |
| 22 | **Incarceration** | Imprisonment; confinement in a jail or penitentiary. |
| 23 | **Jail** | A place of confinement for persons awaiting trial and for persons sentenced to shorter terms of confinement for misdemeanors. |
| 24 | **Judgment** | A final decision and order of the court. |
| 25 | **Jurisdiction** | The authority of a court or other governmental agency to adjudicate controversies brought before it. |
| 26 | **Jury** | A body of persons selected from the community to hear evidence and decide a criminal or civil case. Juries are used only in circuit court. |
| 27 | **Juvenile** | A person under the age of 18. |
| 28 | **Minor** | An infant or person who is under the age of legal competence. One under 18. |
| 29 | **Mistrial** | A trial that is cut short and does not result in a verdict due to a procedural error or other problem. The trial must then start over from the beginning. |
| 30 | **Mitigating Factor** | A fact or circumstance associated with a criminal act that, while not an excuse or justification, may reduce its severity and result in a lesser sentence. |
| 31 | **Motion** | A request made to the judge by a litigant or other person connected with the case for a ruling or order. |
| 32 | **Notary** | A public officer whose function it is to administer oaths; to attest and certify, certain classes of documents; to take acknowledgments, and certify the same. |
| 33 | **Not Guilty** | A finding or verdict in a criminal case wherein the judge or jury determines that the Commonwealth has not proven that the defendant is guilty of a charge. Also the plea that may be made by a defendant to assert that he or she is not guilty and to demand that the Commonwealth prove its case. |
| 34 | **Objection** | A protest or exception made by a party against an action by the opposing party. |
| 35 | **Perjury** | A criminal offense committed by giving a false statement given under oath. |
| 36 | **Plea** | Statement made by the defendant either as to his guilt or innocence to the charge made against him. |
| 37 | **Probable cause** | A reasonable ground for belief in the existence of facts warranting the proceedings complained of (e.g., probable cause to believe that a crime has been committed and that the person accused may have committed it). |
| 38 | **Reasonable Doubt** | The degree of certainty beyond which the Commonwealth must prove its accusations in order to obtain a criminal conviction. |
| 39 | **Search warrant** | An order in writing, issued by a judicial officer, in the name of the state, directed to a sheriff, or other officer commanding him to conduct a search to aid an official investigation. |
| 40 | **Sentence** | The judgment formally pronounced by the judge upon the defendant after his conviction in a criminal prosecution, setting the punishment for the offense. |
| 41 | **Subpoena** | A process to cause a witness to appear and give testimony, commanding him to appear before a court therein named at a time therein mentioned to testify for the party named under a penalty therein mentioned. |
| 42 | **Verdict** | The formal decision or finding of guilt or innocence made by a judge in a criminal case. |
| 43 | **Waive** | To abandon, renounce, repudiate or surrender a claim, a privilege, a right, or the opportunity to take advantage of some defect, irregularity or wrong. |
| 44 | **Witness** | One who testifies to what he has seen, heard or otherwise observed and who is not a party to the action. |