

Entry Into the System: Arrests Key Terms

Arrest – Taking a person suspected of committing a crime into custody and curtailing the individual's freedom to leave, until the person can be brought before a judge to answer the charges against him or her.

Arrest Warrant – A court-ordered document giving law enforcement the authority to arrest someone on a specific charge.

Due Process – The constitutional rights of citizens against government actions that threaten the denial of life, liberty, or property. In criminal cases, arrests and trials must meet certain minimum standards of fairness, and laws cannot violate constitutional rights.

Reasonable Suspicion – Warranted suspicion that a person may be engaged in criminal conduct. Not quite to the level of probable cause.

Probable Cause – Reasonable suspicion or belief that a crime has been committed and that a particular person committed that crime.

Miranda Warning – The warning given to suspects by law enforcement advising suspects of their legal rights to counsel, to refuse to answer questions, to avoid self-incrimination, and other privileges. Named after the landmark case of *Miranda v. Arizona* (1966).

Fifth Amendment – The right to a grand jury for a capital or serious crime; protection against double jeopardy; protection against self-incrimination; prohibition of the taking of life, liberty, or property without due process of law.

Self-incrimination – Giving evidence and answering questions that would tend to subject one to criminal prosecution.

Right to Counsel – The right to be represented by an attorney at critical stages of the criminal justice system.