**Pretrial and Courtroom Procedures Key Terms**

**Adjudication hearing** – the trial phase at a juvenile trial

**Aggravating circumstances** – circumstances presented at the sentencing hearing that

have the potential to increase the punishment a person receives for the crime

**Arraignment** – pretrial proceedings for juveniles

**Bail** – a financial deposit made with a bondsman to ensure that the defendant will appear in court if released during pretrial phase

**Indictment** – a formal document issued by a grand jury, that charges an individual with a crime

**Information** – a formal document issued by a judge in a preliminary hearing, that charges an individual with a crime

**Mitigating Circumstances** – circumstances presented at the sentencing hearing that have the potential to decrease the punishment a person receives for the crime

**Motion** – an application to the court for a ruling

**Motion to Dismiss** – an application to the court to “throw out” the evidence that does not meet the standard

**Motion to Suppress** – a petition to the court to “throw out” evidence that is damaging to the case

**Objection** – means the defense disagrees with the prosecution or vice versa

**Plea bargain** – a deal made between the prosecutor and the defense that allows the

accused to receive “concessions” for a plea of guilt

**Pretrial Release** – a decision to release the defendant is made by the judge and is based on two factors: the rights of the accused and his or her threat to society

**Voir Dire** – to “say the truth”