The **LEGAL RECOURSE** is an important part of managing child abuse cases. Most of our patients would want more information on what happens after the medico-legal examination. The following diagram illustrates the key processes in the filing of cases of child abuse from the police investigation to the trial in court. We hope this will guide physicians in counseling patients and their families.

### KEY PROCESSES & PROCEDURES IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM FOR CHILD ABUSE CASES

1. **Incident of ABUSE**
2. **INVESTIGATION**
3. **Warrantless arrest**

   - **INQUEST**

   - **Requirements to be submitted:** Initial medico-legal examination with or without other evidence and sworn statement of complainant

   - **Information filed in court**

   - **MTC judge or public prosecutor recommends filing of information with the Regional Trial Court**

   - **Arraignment:** accused pleads guilty or not guilty

   - **Promulgation of Judgment**

   - **Guilty**
   - **Acquitted (not guilty)**

   - **Accused may appeal to higher court**

### References:
- **Media In Court. The Criminal Justice System Guidebook For Reporters.** Ness Barrameda, et al.
- **The Revised Penal Code of the Philippines, NBSI Editorial Board**

### ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION
- September 12, 2003, Marriott Hotel Cebu: Forensic Investigation in Fatal Child Abuse Cases - Dr. Raquel Fortun, Forensic Pathologist, UP-PGH
- **ANNUAL CONFERENCE**
- November 10-11, 2003 Pan Pacific Manila