

# The Court Process

Juvenile Court

## Arrest/Detention

### Detention Hearing.

A plea is not entered. Generally, this hearing deals with the issue of detention status only (meaning whether the youth is released to home, other custodial setting, or remain in custody). Youth are given an attorney to represent them during this hearing.

### Disposition.

This is the juvenile equivalent to sentencing. At this hearing, the youth will receive the ruling from the judge regarding what they have to do next (i/e: fines, probation, community service, treatment, residential programming, etc.).

### Case dismissed.

The youth has no further obligation to the Court.

### Admit/Deny Hearing.

The youth enters either an admission or denial to the offense they are charged with. At this hearing, youth are made aware of the facts of their case and are represented by a public defender or counsel they have hired privately. If still in detention, detention status may be discussed at this hearing as well.

### Trial.

Both sides present their case to the Judge (in juvenile trials, there is no jury, only a Judge to make a decision in the case—this is called a “Court Trial”). This can include the calling of witnesses from either side of the case. The State has to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that the offense occurred in order for the Judge to make a finding of guilt.

### Pre-Trial Conference.

At this hearing, the youth and their attorney raise any issues regarding evidence. This hearing date is usually a time for negotiation of a plea deal or for legal discussions amongst the parties regarding going to trial for a case.

*Admission entered/Guilty plea*

*Admission entered/guilty plea/plea negotiation agreement*

*Found Guilty of offense*

*Found Not Guilty of offense*

*Denial entered*

*Denial entered/continued*

