

# The Juvenile Court Process

## General Information

A juvenile has committed a crime against you, your family, or your property. You may have many questions about what happens after an arrest is made. How does the legal system work? Does the court treat juveniles differently than adults? What are your rights as a crime victim?

This explains how the court system works when a juvenile is arrested and charged with a crime. It will help you understand and be involved in the legal process.

### How juvenile cases are handled

A delinquent act is an act committed by a juvenile that would be a crime if committed by a person over age 18. When a juvenile has been charged with a delinquent act, the legal process is significantly different from the process used for adults.

The juvenile justice system works to treat and rehabilitate juvenile offenders. In addition, juvenile courts move quickly to resolve cases and provide the accused more privacy than adults charged with similar crimes.

### Detention

A juvenile taken into custody and arrested for a crime may be detained. The arresting officer may release the juvenile to the custody of a parent or guardian, place the juvenile in custody, or continue the detention. The law requires that a juvenile be released from detention unless certain extreme circumstances exist. Most juveniles in detention must come before the court within 24 to 48 hours for a detention hearing. Most juvenile offenders are not detained. They are summoned to court by a mailed notice.

### Locations of Hearings

The three types of hearings in juvenile cases may take place in different locations. A juvenile offender's arraignment hearing, pretrial and trial occurs in the county where the crime was committed. The disposition hearing takes place in the county of residence.

## Flow Chart for Juvenile Hearings

