

TULSA COUNTY FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER



315 South Gilcrease Museum Road
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74136

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WELCOME TO SERVICES AT THE TULSA COUNTY JUVENILE BUREAU

The Tulsa County Juvenile Bureau provides access to services for youth. These services include prevention, justice and treatment programs. The programs are provided in a fair, timely and appropriate manner. Youth and families are treated with dignity and respect. Our mission is to meet needs of the children, youth and families to ensure the safety of our community.

In 1909, Oklahoma started one of the first juvenile courts. In 1950, The Tulsa County Juvenile Court was started in its own facility. This facility had a special juvenile judge. In 1968, a center was built to house the courts and the programs for the juvenile justice system.

The Juvenile Bureau serves youth and families involved with the juvenile courts. Youth at risk of involvement are also served. The Juvenile Bureau serves more than four thousand youth and their families per year.

TRAUMA-INFORMED SERVICES

Everyone has had good and bad experiences. Bad experiences can be events like being a victim of a crime or domestic violence. Surviving a natural disaster or the death of a loved one are bad experiences too. Other bad events are sexual assault, and child abuse. All of these can be trauma experiences. These events are not in a person's control but can happen to anyone.

Each person is affected differently by trauma. Trauma can have a huge impact on many areas of your life. Trauma can impact the ability to control emotions, concentrate, or feel better. Trauma can impact decisions and making plans. Trauma survivors talk about how trauma affects them. Their physical and mental health and emotions are affected. Trauma often changes people, but survivors of trauma are strong. To recover and heal from trauma is possible and happens often.

Our goal is to assist you in understanding ways your experiences have affected you. We will support you learning new coping skills. An action plan can help you gain a sense of safety and control over your life. This will assist your work to heal and move forward.



THE JUVENILE COURT

History of Juvenile Court

Juvenile courts in the United States were started in the late nineteenth century. It was determined at that time that youth were still developing in maturity and should be given a chance to learn from their mistakes. Before there were juvenile courts youth who had broken the law were tried in adult courts. They were tried according to the laws ruling adults. In 1967, the Supreme Court gave youth the right to due process. This means that youths' rights are protected.

Juvenile courts are still different than adult courts because:

- guilt is decided by a judge, not a jury and
- the purpose of the court is to rehabilitate youth.

Youth Rights

It is important to understand that only youth have rights in the juvenile court. As the respondent (defendant) these rights include:

Right to be notified of charges: The youth has the right to know what they are being charged with. They will be informed of their charges at arraignment.

Right to have legal representation: The youth will be assigned a defense attorney. The attorney represents them in court. The attorney will go over the case and advise them of their options.

Right to cross-examine witnesses: If the youth goes to a trial/fact finding hearing (which is uncommon), the defense attorney may question the witnesses brought by the prosecution.

Right against self-incrimination: The youth may not be forced to testify against themselves.

Parent's role

Though parents do not have legal rights in juvenile court, they are an important part of the process. Parents give information to the defense attorney and Intake Counselor. They help the judge decide what treatments are effective with youth. Parents are important support for their child. Parents should attend all court hearings.

NON-OFFENDER PROGRAMS

Intake Department: Intake assesses the needs of youth who have committed offenses. Based on assessments, recommendations are made to the court. Most youth are referred to community social service providers.

Child in Need of Supervision (CHINS): CHINS petitions are filed to ask the Court to assist parents with supervising youth. This occurs when serious conflict exists between the youth and the parent. Some legal criteria must be met in order for the court to become involved. A parent or DHS representative can file a CHINS petition.

Truancy: The State of Oklahoma requires schools to file truancy petitions in juvenile court if youth have four or more unexcused absences in a month or ten unexcused absences in a semester. The court decides if a youth needs to appear in court. In some cases truancy matters are handled by the youth's school district. **Contact your local school district for more information.**

Drug Court: Parents are sent to family drug court when they have a substance abuse problem. This helps reunite children and parents when DHS is involved. Parent's substance abuse is checked and treatment and parenting skills are provided.

WHO YOU WILL MEET AT COURT

The people in juvenile court play an important role in teaching youth to be responsible for their behavior. The roles of these people are discussed. What you need to know about working with these individuals is described.

Defense Attorney

Youth's Attorney Name : _____

Youth's Attorney phone: _____

The defense attorney's job is to stand up for the youth in court. The defense attorney will make sure the youth's rights are defended. They will advise the youth about the options that are available to decide their case. It is normal for the youth to meet the attorney for the first time in the court waiting room before the first hearing. The attorney will usually speak to the youth in private. Because the defense attorney works for the youth, they may or may not explain the court process to the parents. They may be willing to communicate what they can to the parent as long as it is not confidential legal information.

Prosecuting Attorney

The prosecuting attorney's role is to protect the public safety. They do this by filing charges against the youth and recommending what they think are appropriate consequences. The prosecuting attorney will often be a different individual in each hearing. The youth and family will not usually have any contact with the prosecuting attorney outside of court. The defense attorney and prosecuting attorney may consult with each other about resolution of the youth's case.

Judge

The judge presides over the court hearings to make sure that proper legal procedure is observed, and also makes decisions around the outcomes of the case. The judge makes decisions about whether the youth will stay in detention, whether the youth is adjudicated or not adjudicated of the crime charged, and what the youth is ordered to do. The youth and parents will not have contact with the judge outside of the court hearings. Any information you would like to give to the judge should be given to the Intake Counselor, who summarizes information about the youth and makes recommendations to the judge about treatment options.

Intake Counselor

Name of Intake Counselor: _____

Phone number: _____

The Intake Counselor works for the court, not the child's attorney. **All youth who go through the juvenile court process will be assigned an Intake Counselor, even if they are not placed on probation.** The Intake Counselor provides information about the court process, as well as gathers information about the youth's history, strengths and needs. This information will be shared with the judge and the Intake Counselor will make recommendations to the judge about whether the youth may benefit from one of the court treatment programs. The Intake Counselor is the best person for the parent to contact with questions about the court process.

Juvenile Probation Counselor

Name of Probation Counselor: _____

Phone Number: _____

The Juvenile Probation Counselor works with a youth **if referred to community supervision.** The Probation Counselor will meet with the youth and family at least once a month to check on progress and make sure the youth is complying with the conditions of his/her probation. Parents are

strongly encouraged to be present at these meetings and to tell the Probation Counselor about the youth's positive and troubling behaviors. These conversations are not confidential and can be used to file violations or probation modifications.

Other Court Staff

Court Services: Court services staff manage day to day operations. You will check in at the information desk with a court services employee when you arrive at court.

Court Runner: The court runner escorts the youth to and from detention for court hearings.

Bailiff: The court bailiff calls the youth into the courtroom. They also make sure people behave themselves while in the courtroom.

Court Clerk: The court clerk is present at the hearings and records the hearing proceedings.

WHAT INFO TO PROVIDE TO COURT

Below is a list of suggestions for what types of helpful information a parent can provide about the youth during the court process. We recommend that this information be given to the Intake Counselor. The Intake Counselor will ask the parent and the youth many of these questions, so having the answers ready can make this process go more quickly.

- ♦ What kind of treatment, consequences or outcomes do you think will help the youth?
- ♦ What have you found to motivate the youth?

Family History

- ♦ Who is the youth currently living with?
- ♦ How is the youth's relationship with family members? Does he/she have a strong relationship with anyone in particular?
- ♦ Has the youth ever run away from home? How many times and for how long?
- ♦ Has your family been involved in any family treatment or counseling programs in the past?
- ♦ How would you describe your relationship with the youth?

School History

- ♦ Does the youth attend school regularly? If not, when did he/she start attending less regularly?
- ♦ Are there any subjects or school activities that the youth has succeeded in? What are her/his interests and strengths?
- ♦ Has the youth had any medical issues that have made attending school and participating in other activities difficult?

Mental Health/Substance Abuse History

- ♦ Is the youth currently using illegal substances (alcohol, drugs)? When did he/she start using?

When did you start to notice a change in their behavior?

- ♦ Has the youth been diagnosed with a mental health issue?
- ♦ Is the youth currently receiving treatment for a mental health issue? Has the youth received treatment in the past? If yes, what were the names of the counselors and where was the treatment provided?
- ♦ Is the youth currently on any medications for a mental health issue? If yes, what are they prescribed?

Relationships

- ♦ Do you feel that the youth's friends are a bad influence for him/her?
- ♦ Does the youth have any friends that are a good influence?

Supports and Strengths

- ♦ Who are the positive people in the youth's life that he/she looks up to?
- ♦ What positive community groups such as school or church groups, does the youth participate in?
- ♦ What is the youth good at?



DETENTION

Detention Home: The detention home is a short-term secure placement for youth. Youth remain in the detention home until a court appearance or placement by the court. While in detention youth are involved in skill building and educational programs. The school program is taught by Tulsa Public Schools.

Going into detention for the first time can be a scary experience for the youth. It helps to know that detention centers are required to follow standards for safety, space, health and recreation.

Youth in detention will receive:

- ◆ Three meals a day and an evening snack
- ◆ Clean clothing
- ◆ Personal hygiene items
- ◆ Daily exercise
- ◆ Daily education program
- ◆ Daily shower, access to a toilet and water fountain as needed
- ◆ Opportunity to attend religious services of their choice

Detention Home Visiting Hours:

Saturday 1:30 - 2:30

Sunday 1:30 - 2:30

Wednesday 6:00 - 7:00

Telephone: Youth are allowed to make phone calls with staff approval or when the Intake/Probation Counselor visits the youth.

Mail: Youth may send from detention and receive mail. Incoming mail will be checked for contraband (items not allowed in detention). Anything the youth receives that he/she cannot keep in detention will be held for discharge.

The Detention Home address for mailing is:

**Tulsa County Juvenile Detention Home
(Youth's Name)**

315 S. Gilcrease Museum Rd.

Tulsa, OK 74127

Health Services: The Tulsa County Detention Home has a Health Clinic with a nurse, and a primary care doctor who will see the youth if they are injured or sick. The youth may request to speak to a nurse at any time. Health and mental health information is private and can only be shared under very strict guidelines.

Medication for youth must to be brought to detention in a current, labeled prescription bottle.

COURT PROCESSES

The juvenile court process can take several months. There are several hearings to attend, and depending on scheduling and other factors, these may happen weeks apart. When a family arrives at court for their hearing they may wait several hours before being called into court.

Tips for attending court hearings

Dress: Don't wear clothes with gang colors or symbols. Also avoid clothes that support drug or alcohol use. Pajama bottoms, cut-offs, shorts or other overly casual and revealing clothes are not suitable. The judges make decisions based on the evidence but a youth and parent's dress can affect the opinion.

Weapons: Weapons are not allowed in court. This includes guns, knives and other types of items. All persons entering the court are required to go through a metal detector.

Behavior: Persons in the court waiting area are asked to not cuss, yell, spit, or play loud music. They are also asked not to damage the furniture and other facilities. County staff is present to enforce the rules.

Types of Court Hearings

The following pages summarize the kinds of hearings you may attend. We have included space so you can take notes as well as put in the dates of the next hearing. The hearings that the youth may attend are called:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| ♦ Initial Hearing | ♦ Probation Review |
| ♦ Filing Announcement | ♦ Restitution |
| ♦ Arraignment | ♦ Modification |
| ♦ Adjudication | ♦ Detention Review |
| ♦ Trial/Fact Finding
Hearing | ♦ Omnibus |
| ♦ Disposition | ♦ Competency |
| | ♦ Capacity |

Initial Hearing

Purpose: This hearing occurs the next court day after the youth is brought into detention on suspicion that a crime has been committed. This can also occur when a youth shows for a hearing on a "Promise to Appear" from the police (Arraignment).

Outcome: First, the judge decides whether there is enough information for the court to assert authority over the youth. If the judge finds this to be the case, the judge will decide to hold the youth in detention, or release the youth and require the following of court-ordered rules. The judge can order or recognize the youth and/or parent back

to court for the announcement hearing. The prosecutor has a deadline in which to file charges (the "filing deadline") while the court has authority over the youth.

Filing Announcement

Purpose: At the time of an initial hearing, a filing announcement is scheduled to be held if charges are filed. If charges are filed, the parent is asked to provide financial information to decide if the youth can afford their own attorney or if the judge will assign them a public defender. The youth will be required to have an attorney present.

Arraignment/Announcement

Purpose: Arraignment is when the youth is formally informed of the charges being brought against them when they are not in detention. This may be done either in court or out of court, depending on the seriousness of the charge. The parent is asked for financial information to decide if the youth can pay for an attorney. If the family can't afford an attorney the judge will give the youth a public defender.

Outcome: The next hearing, adjudication, will be scheduled.

Adjudication Hearing

Purpose: The adjudication hearing is when a youth either admits to a crime or asks for a trial to prove their innocence. The youth's attorney will need to meet with the youth to get their side of the story. The attorney will most likely speak to the youth alone during some portion of the meeting. The purpose of this meeting is for the youth and the defense attorney to discuss the case and for the defense attorney to advise the youth about the options available and to assist the youth in deciding which option to take.

Outcome: The youth, with the attorney's help, will decide whether to admit guilt, schedule a trial, or postpone the hearing for more preparation. Depending on this decision, the defense attorney will schedule a trial date, a new adjudication date or a plea date.

Non-Jury/Jury Trial

Purpose: The trial is the hearing in which a judge or jury decides if the youth is delinquent or not. The youth is not adjudicated of the crime unless the judge or jury finds him or her delinquent. For the judge to find the youth delinquent, the prosecutor must provide enough evidence to show

beyond a reasonable doubt that the youth is guilty of the crime.

A youth has the right to request a jury decide or can request the judge decide.

Outcome: The judge will decide whether the youth is delinquent or not delinquent. If the youth is found delinquent, the next hearing is a disposition hearing.

Disposition Hearing

Purpose: At this hearing, the judge hears the details of the youth's case and will order a set of requirements for the youth to follow called a disposition order. Probation submits a plan for treatment made with the youth and family.

Outcome: The disposition order outlines what the youth must do to successfully complete the juvenile justice process. The judge considers what will help the youth learn accountability, what will keep the community safe and what will assist the youth's rehabilitation.

Disposition orders can include:

No supervision	Community service
Probation	Restitution (paying
Counseling	back money)
Custody of the Office of Juvenile Affairs (OJA)	

Some of these options are explained in more detail in the probation section and glossary. The youth is given a copy of the disposition order. This includes the terms and conditions and the youth's treatment plan after the disposition hearing.

Probation Review Hearing

Purpose: At this hearing, the Probation Counselor updates the court on the progress of the youth. A report is provided with information from the youth's school, counselors, and parents.

Outcome: Probation can request a change in the treatment plan, another hearing, or close the case.

Additional Hearings

Detention Review

A detention review is held the first open court day following an arrest. A review will be held again the fifth day following their first detention review. A review is held every 15 days a youth is in detention after the second hearing.

Restitution Hearing

When a youth is ordered to pay restitution (paying money back for an offense committed) restitution hearings may be scheduled for the judge to determine an appropriate amount of restitution to be paid.

Motion Hearing

A motion hearing occurs when a Probation Counselor requests that a youth be seen again by the judge. This typically occurs because the youth has violated one or more conditions of probation and the Probation Counselor is recommending that the disposition order be modified in some way.

Motions: Any time a party asks the judge for a legal ruling on a specific issue, it is called a "motion". There can be motions on many different issues. They can be specially scheduled in front of a judge, or if they relate directly to a trial, they usually will be heard at the start of the trial.

PROBATION

Probation is given a set of conditions a youth is assigned by a judge. A youth is assigned a Juvenile Probation Worker who works with the youth to make sure the youth complies with the conditions. This is referred to as community supervision.

If a youth does not comply with conditions of probation, the Probation Worker can consider a modification. The Probation Worker must request a court hearing to discuss options to supervision.

Conditions of Probation: Conditions of probation will vary from youth to youth depending on what the Probation Counselor sees as important.

Conditions of probation include going to school, obeying house rules, and avoiding illegal substances. Sometimes the judge will order counseling or drug treatment, community service or restitution.

Role of the Probation Counselor: The Probation Counselor will meet or talk on the phone with the youth and parent about twice a month. The Probation Counselor is a resource for the youth and family. They can assist with talking to teachers and counselors. They can encourage the youth's progress in other areas. While probation has the ability to request a hearing if the youth is not complying with probation conditions, it is much better for everyone if behavior issues can be resolved without having to return to court.

Probation Counselors have training to work with youth and are committed to helping them be successful in finishing probation and making better choices.

Role of the Parent: Parents are strongly encouraged to know the youth's conditions of probation. Parents are expected to attend all meetings with the Probation Counselor and the youth. The parent is a great source of information about how the youth is progressing. Many parents find it helpful to keep a log of youth behaviors to share with the Probation. We present an example of the type of log you may want to keep as you go through this process. Writing this down will keep you from forgetting to share important information. It is also important to record the positive progress the youth is making including achievements and good behavior (obeying rules, good grades or sport successes, for example). If a youth runs away, however, you should let the Probation Counselor know right away.

Also know that anything you say to the Probation Counselor can be used to file new charges or probation violations against your child.

When keeping a log, it is helpful to keep track of any police incident report numbers or runaway incident numbers.

If the youth is not compliant with their conditions of probation then the Probation Counselor will consider scheduling a hearing before the judge. Parents are encouraged to work with the Probation

Counselor to find ways to encourage the youth to behave in a positive way.

Probation Log: EXAMPLE

DATE	TIME	EVENT
8/24	12pm	School called to report "Jimmy" did not appear for classes the previous day. "Jimmy" told me it wasn't my business where he was.
8/25	10am	"Jimmy" apologized for his behavior and said he would go to school next Monday.
8/28	8am	"Jimmy" goes to school and attends all day.
9/2	1am	"Jimmy" not in by curfew. Call and text him to come home. "Jimmy" comes home at 1am and appears to be high.
9/3	9am	"Jimmy" asks me not report the curfew violation, and says he will not do it again. I asked about being high and he denies.



OTHER BUREAU PROGRAMS

As part of the mission of the juvenile court to assist the youth's positive progress, the court has a number of programs that the youth may be eligible to receive. Youth can speak to the Intake Counselor during the court process about programs open to the youth and the family.

Anger Management: Youth may be referred to an anger management course to explore triggers for anger issues. Relaxation techniques and alternative ways of communicating may also be explored.

Crossover Youth: Crossover youth refers youth in the juvenile justice system who also involved in the child welfare system (DHS). Youth involved in the child welfare system may be in the family home with court supervision, foster care, or group care.

Family-based Services: Family-based intervention is an effective way to support positive youth functioning. Sessions often focus on family goals for improvement and assist the family in moving toward these goals. Counselors may work with the family in the home.

Girl Power: Girl Power is a preventative skill building program provided for probation youth and targeted youth and families in Tulsa County elementary and middle schools.

Intensive Supervision Program (ISP): This program is used to reduce the number of youth in detention. It is an alternative to detention for youth capable of residing safely in the community, who need intense supervision. Youth are placed on homebound detention and referred to ISP.

LIFE Home Based Services: LIFE is a free home based program designed to work with family strengths and assets. Youth and their family are referred to LIFE by the Intake or Probation Departments. Each family is assigned a therapist and Family Support Specialist. The team helps the family work through issues and attains community resources. This helps close the probation case successfully. LIFE therapists and Family Support Specialists work with the youth and family at home, school, and in the community.

Phoenix Rising School: This is an education program which provides youth more individualized instruction in small classroom settings. Phoenix Rising also provides skill-building and behavioral treatment for youth on probation. This program works collaboratively with Tulsa Public Schools and utilizes the Big Picture Model.

Pre-OP: This is a Child In Need of Supervision program designed to prevent formal involvement in

the juvenile justice system. Families and youth are assessed and referred to community services to assist with their needs.

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Listed below are several community resources that are available to assist your family.

Crossover Youth: Being involved in both systems can be a significant strain on the youth, foster families and biological families as the youth will have multiple systems to navigate.

This means more meetings and appointments to attend. Foster parents may feel unsure about whether attending these meetings is their responsibility. Foster parents, and biological parents when appropriate, are encouraged to attend court hearings and participate in the court process as appropriate. This will give the court a better sense of the youth's needs and will likely result in a better overall outcome.

Efforts are made to provide integrated care between juvenile justice and child welfare staff. This includes:

- ♦ Determine whether a juvenile justice involved youth is also involved in the child welfare system,

- ♦ Coordination of meetings between juvenile probation and child welfare caseworkers to reduce unnecessary duplication in effort and time for the youth, and
- ♦ Commitment to on-going communication between juvenile probation and child welfare workers regarding progress and housing status of youth.

Mentoring: Mentoring program can be a powerful experience for youth. These programs give the youth someone to relate to outside of their family and current peer group. Mentors are matched to a youth based on interests and needs.

Job Training: Job training programs that expose youth to different skills and industries which involve them in prosocial activities and build competencies.

School Support: School support programs focus on tutoring and academic intervention. Programs can be very useful for students who are having a difficult time remaining in school. School success is highly related to positive outcomes for youth.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Adjudication - A court decision by the judge that the youth is guilty of a charged offense.

Allegations - Something that a person says that is not proven as truth. Crimes are just allegations until the prosecutor proves them in court.

Arraignment - The first court hearing. This is when the accused child is formally advised of the charges against them and of their rights. The accused person enters a plea of guilty or not guilty.

ART - (Aggression Replacement Training). A program used to improve reasoning skills, anger control and moral thinking.

Attorney - A trained legal professional who represents people in court, also called a lawyer.

Certification hearing - The process of deciding if a juvenile with certain serious charges will be transferred to an adult criminal court

Charge - The act that a child is formally accused of committing.

Conditional Release -When a respondent is released from court custody under supervision of a parent or court officer. Violation of the order may cause the youth to return to custody.

Continuance - A rescheduling of a court hearing.

Counsel - Another name for an attorney.

Court-appointed counsel - An attorney who is appointed by the court.

Crime - See Offense.

Cross-examination - Questions asked of a witness by the attorney.

Curfew - Times that a child is required by the law, parent or court to be at home.

Custodian - The person who has the legal right to control what a child does. This person also has the responsibility to meet a child's basic needs.

Parents, guardians, or the state can have custody of a child.

Detention - A locked facility where children wait for their next court hearing or placement.

Disposition - The juvenile justice system's version of a court sentence. A judge decides the disposition at a hearing.

Diversion - A way to keep youth from getting further into the juvenile justice system. This asks youth to complete tasks outside of court. This is usually handled through a community based program.

Due Process - Courts must follow a fair and just process; for example, they must give children notice of hearings and the right to present their side of an argument.

Evidence-Based Programs (EBP) - Carefully studied treatment programs with research that proves effectiveness

Fact-Finding Hearing - Also called a Trial. At this hearing, the prosecutor and the youth's defense attorney question witnesses on the crime of which the youth has been accused. The judge will decide if the youth is guilty, based on the law and the evidence presented.

Felony - An act or serious crime that may result in a long-term treatment program. Less serious crimes are called misdemeanors.

First Appearance Hearing -A hearing held after the youth is brought into detention in which the judge decides whether the court has the authority, based on available evidence, to continue proceedings against the youth.

Guardian - An adult who has the legal right to make decisions about and care for a child. A guardian can be the child's parent, family member, an unrelated adult, or the state.

Hearing - Court meetings that may take place with the attorney or before a judge.

Interrogation - The questioning of a respondent, suspect or witness.

Jurisdiction - The court's power to hear and to decide a case against a child.

Juvenile - An individual who is under the age of eighteen.

Juvenile Drug Court - Intensive substance abuse treatment and supervision youth who abuse substances, Weekly hearings are held for 9-12 months.

Mentor Program - One to one outreach and support programs by trained mentors.

Miranda Rights or Miranda Warnings - Warning received when a child is arrested. This warning advises of the right to remain silent and the right to have a lawyer.

Misdemeanor - An offense less serious than a felony.

Offense - An act that if committed by an adult would be considered a crime.

Plea bargain - When a child's lawyer and the prosecutor make a deal to resolve an offense/charge. The child usually agrees to plead guilty for a reduced number or severity of charges.

Predisposition Report - A report is written for the judge. The report reviews the youth's conduct and family history.

Probation - Youth are placed on probation by a judge after adjudication. It is the time youth are supervised by the court in the community.

Probation Worker- Someone who supervises juveniles in the community for the court and reports to the court. Probation Counselors ensure that all conditions of a court order are followed. They make sure that the right services are provided to the youth and family.

Prosecution - Trying a person on criminal charges.

Prosecutor - A county attorney who charges a youth with a crime. They present information trying to adjudicate the youth.

Public Defender - A court appointed attorney who represents a youth. This occurs when a youth can't hire an attorney. The Public Defender represents the youth.

Recidivating/Recidivism - Breaking the law after adjudication/committing a new offense.

Respondent - A youth under the control of the juvenile court who is charged of violating the law.

Restitution - Payment to a victim by the accused for damage or loss.

Status Offender - A child who is charged with doing something that is only illegal for individuals under age 18. This includes running away from home, and staying out past curfew. Adults cannot be charged with status offenses.

Statute - A law adopted or passed by the state legislature.

Subpoena - A legal document that requires the person named to appear in court. The person must appear on a stated day and time at a specified court to give testimony in a case.

Trial - See Fact-finding Hearing

Testimony - A statement made to establish a fact or facts and given under oath.

Truant - A child or youth with unexcused absences from school.

Witness - A person having information that is important to an issue being decided by the court or the person who saw the crime.

Witness Interviews - Interviews held the before the trial. Victims and witnesses are asked about the crime(s).