

The Juvenile Court Process

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. Juvenile courts move quickly to resolve cases and provide the juvenile with more privacy than adults charged with similar crimes. Juvenile Hearings are closed to the public and even victims may not be allowed in the courtroom during a juvenile hearing.

Detention

Most juvenile offenders are not detained and placed into detention; typically juveniles are summoned to court by a mailed notice. Juveniles in detention must come before the court within 36 hours for a detention hearing.

Locations of Hearings

A juvenile offenders admit/deny hearing, pretrial and trial occurs in the county where the crime was committed. However, the disposition hearing (sentencing) takes place in the county of the juvenile's residence.

Flow Chart Crime Victims Right During Juvenile Court Proceedings

