



The Terms of  
Juvenile Court  
Delinquency  
Proceedings



# A Glossary of Terms for Juvenile Court Delinquency Proceedings

**Adjudication** -- A court hearing to determine if a juvenile is innocent or guilty. This is called a “trial” in adult court. A juvenile who is found guilty is said to be “adjudicated.”

**Advisory Hearing** -- A court hearing at which juveniles are advised of their rights and the charges being brought against them and given an attorney if needed. The juvenile either admits or requests an adjudication hearing.

**Cite-In** -- A formal meeting between a probation officer, a juvenile and the juvenile’s parent or guardian, in which the probation officer attempts to make a disposition (assign a consequence) for a minor offense committed by a first or second-time offender without going to court.

**Commitment** -- When a juvenile has been unsuccessful on probation, or the seriousness of the crime warrants incarceration, the juvenile may be placed in the Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections.

**Delinquent Juvenile** -- A youth found guilty of committing a delinquent offense.

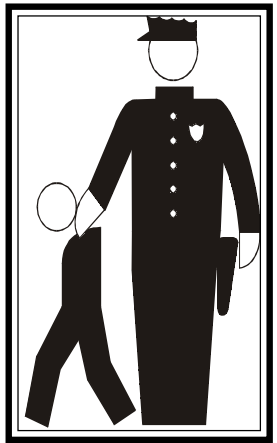
**Delinquent Offense** -- An act by a juvenile which if committed by an adult would be a crime.



**Detention** -- Temporary confinement of a juvenile in a secure, locked facility.

**Direct Complaint** -- A legal document filed by a prosecutor charging and automatically transferring a juvenile accused of certain violent felony offenses to the adult system for prosecution.

**Disposition** -- This is called “sentencing” in an adult court. It is a hearing in which the court decides what the consequences will be for a juvenile found guilty of delinquent or incorrigible acts. These consequences can be restitution, community service, probation,



intensive probation or commitment to the Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections.

**Exclusive Disposition** -- A court decision in which a juvenile is ordered to make restitution, pay a fine or perform community service, without being placed on probation.

**Home Detention** -- An alternative to secure detention that requires juveniles to remain at home under specific conditions and restrictions.



**Incorrigible Juvenile** -- A youth found guilty of committing a status offense which includes curfew violation, underage drinking, smoking, running away and truancy from school.

**Juvenile Intensive Probation Supervision (JIPS)** -- A form of probation which requires the juvenile to have frequent weekly contact with their probation officer, remain at home when not in school or at work and adhere to other restrictive requirements.

**Petition** -- A legal document filed by the prosecutor formally charging a juvenile with certain delinquent or incorrigible acts. In adult court, this is called an "indictment."

**Plea Agreement** -- An agreement in which the prosecutor will usually drop or reduce some charges in exchange for the juvenile admitting to other charges, thus saving the time and expense of a lengthy adjudication process.

**Probation** -- A consequence of a juvenile's delinquent acts in which the juvenile is permitted to remain in the parent or guardian's care subject to court supervision and compliance with court-ordered terms which can include counseling and random drug tests.



**Referral** -- A written request from a police department, school, parent or guardian asking the Juvenile Court to take action regarding an alleged illegal act by a juvenile.

**Status Offense** -- An act which is against the law only because of the age of the person (a juvenile) who performed the act. Curfew violation, underage drinking, smoking, running away and truancy from school are the most common status offenses.

**Residential Treatment Center (RTC)** --

A licensed, child-care facility where a judge can order a juvenile to live. The purpose is to assist the juvenile, via structured treatment, to eliminate problem areas in his/her life. Most RTCs have on-campus education facilities, group and individual counseling and support systems.

**Treatment Assessment Screening Center (TASC)** --

A private agency with several locations in the Valley specializing in drug-related treatment. TASC provides counseling, education and drug testing. A term of probation can be for the juvenile to participate in this program.

**Terms of Probation** -- A set of rules and regulations ordered by the court when a juvenile is placed on probation. The probation officer monitors compliance of the terms and informs the court of the juvenile's progress or failure to comply.



**Transfer Hearing** -- A hearing in Juvenile Court to determine whether a juvenile should be prosecuted as an adult. The prosecutor requests the transfer hearing generally for older juveniles who are serious and/or repetitive offenders. Juveniles transferred or “remanded” for prosecution as adults can be sentenced to either prison or other adult penalties.

**Treatment Alternatives Unit (TAU)** -- A unit of juvenile probation officers working with juveniles and their families to provide appropriate treatment services and programs. They also supervise juveniles in residential treatment.

**Warrant** -- A document issued by the court which requires the police to arrest a juvenile on allegations of criminal activity or for failure to appear for a court hearing.



Maurice Portley, Presiding Juvenile Judge  
Cherlyn Townsend, Chief Juvenile Probation Officer