

Answers to Your Questions About

Juvenile Delinquency



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What is a juvenile delinquent?

A juvenile delinquent is a juvenile who has been found guilty of a delinquent act.

What rights to juveniles have in delinquency cases?

Juveniles have the following rights in court:

- A six-member jury trial if charged with a crime of violence or an alleged aggravated juvenile offender.
- Confidentiality of their juvenile records.
- All rights associated with regular courts, such as the right to a speedy trial, the right to counsel, etc.

What are the classifications of juvenile delinquents?

Mandatory sentence offender: A mandatory juvenile offender meets any of the following criteria:

He or she was adjudicated as a juvenile delinquent twice or has been adjudicated a juvenile delinquent, and if his or her probation has been revoked for a delinquent act, and is subsequently adjudicated as a juvenile delinquent.

The court will take anyone classified as a mandatory juvenile offender out of the home for at least a year unless the court finds that an alternative sentence of a commitment of less than one year out of the home would be more appropriate. However, the court may reduce that sentence if the juvenile can show exemplary behavior.

Repeat juvenile offender: A repeat juvenile offender meets the following criteria:

When he or she has been adjudicated a juvenile delinquent and is adjudicated a juvenile delinquent for a delinquent act that constitutes a felony, or if his or her probation is revoked for a delinquent act that constitutes a felony. A repeat offender could be sentenced to the Colorado Department of Human Services for a minimal term.

Violent juvenile offender: A violent juvenile offender must be at least 13 years old and must be adjudicated a juvenile delinquent for a delinquent act that constitutes a crime of violence. A violent juvenile offender may also be sentenced to the Colorado Department of Human Services for a minimal term.

Aggravated juvenile offender: An aggravated juvenile offender meets one of these requirements:

- He or she is at least 12 years old and is adjudicated a juvenile delinquent for a delinquent act that constitutes a class 1 or class 2 felony.
- He or she has had probation revoked for a delinquent act that constitutes a class 1 or class 2 felony.

An aggravated juvenile offender may be placed into the Colorado Department of Corrections for five years.

What action can the court take against an adjudicated juvenile?

- A juvenile may face probation for a period of up to two years with the possibility of the following:
 - a) a maximum of 45 days' detention;
 - b) 60-day boot camp program;
 - c) useful public service;
 - d) restitution.
- The court may order the juvenile into the custody of the Colorado Department of Human Services for up to five years.

What types of rehabilitative programs are there for juvenile offenders?

- **Regimented Juvenile Training Program or Juvenile Boot Camp:** This is a program where juvenile delinquents are subjected to a controlled environment. That environment affirms respect for the self and others and promotes the value of education and work.
- **Juvenile Intensive Supervision Program (JISP):** JISP is utilized by a judge in sentencing where a juvenile presents a high risk of future placement within the juvenile correctional system. This program provides highly structured probation supervision while the juvenile is in a community-based setting.
- **Juvenile Community Review Board:** This board provides for the care, education, training, treatment, and rehabilitation of juveniles in the Colorado Department of Human Services.
- **Parental Responsibility Training Program:** This program helps develop parental skills in providing for the child's learning and development, the importance of role models and family ties, and drug prevention.
- **Intensive Family Preservation Program:** This program focuses on family strength, child-raising practices, crisis intervention, enhancing parental skills, and stress reduction. It also provides individualized and group counseling to create a better environment for the juvenile.

What liabilities do parents have in matters of delinquency?

Parents are responsible for the actions of their children. They may be liable under juvenile law for the following sentences:

- They may have to complete community service with the juvenile.

- They may have to attend parental responsibility programs.
- They may have to perform services to the victim designed to rehabilitate the juvenile.
- They may lose custody of the child temporarily. In rare circumstances, the parent may lose the child permanently.
- Parents may also be liable in a separate civil court for damages to the victim(s).

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