

Juvenile Justice System Glossary

The following terms may be used in the course of the Juvenile Justice Process.

Accused - a person or entity accused of committing a crime.

Adjudication Hearing - the trial court proceeding in which it is determined whether the allegations of the petition are supported by legally admissible evidence.

Advisory Hearing - The first court hearing. Juvenile is advised of the charges against him/her and enters a plea of guilty or not guilty.

Assistant County Attorney (Prosecutor) - an attorney employed by the Linn County Attorney's Office whose job is to prosecute those accused of committing crimes in Linn County.

Cross-examination - questions asked of a witness by the attorney for the party who did not call the witness to testify.

Defendant (juvenile) - a person under the age of eighteen (18) years of age (child) who is charged with committing a delinquent act.

Delinquency - the commission of an illegal act by a juvenile. A child is "delinquent" when he/she has been found guilty.

Detention - secured facility run by the juvenile probation department. Adult equivalent is jail.

Detention Hearing - a hearing to determine whether a juvenile should be detained or released.

Discovery - the process by which the prosecutor and defense attorney learn of the evidence the other party will present at trial.

Disposition - In terms of the adult system, this would be known as sentencing.

In Custody Hearing - an advisory hearing for an juvenile who is in-custody (detained and held) at the Juvenile Court Shelter facility.

Juvenile Court Office - A State agency that manages various secured juvenile facilities. Adult equivalent would be the prison system.

Petition - the document filed by the State charging a juvenile with a crime.

Plea Agreement (Plea Bargain) - negotiation of an agreement between the prosecuting and defending counsel or for a reduced disposition or penalty.

Pre-Adjudication - events that occur before the Adjudication Hearing.

Pre-Adjudication Interviews - informal interviews conducted by the prosecutor or defense attorney before the trial at which victims and witnesses are questioned about their knowledge of the crime(s). Victims have the right to refuse to submit to a pre-adjudication interview conducted by the defendant, the defendant's attorney, or an investigator for the defendant.

Pre-Disposition Report - a report prepared by a probation officer for the Judge's consideration at the Disposition Hearing. This report includes a review of the juvenile's behavior and family history.

Probation - in juvenile court, a disposition which allows the juvenile to remain at liberty under the supervision of a probation officer. Detention time can be imposed as part of probation.

Probable Cause - a determination made by the Judge as to the likelihood that the juvenile committed the crime.

Restitution - the amount of money that the Judge orders the juvenile defendant to pay the victim as a condition of the juvenile defendant's sentence for the victim's out-of-pocket losses directly related to the delinquent act.

Subpoena - a legal document requiring the person named in the subpoena to appear on a stated day and time at a specified court to give testimony in a case.

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

Victim - by law, a person, business or neighborhood association is a victim if the act committed by a juvenile would constitute a felony offense, or a misdemeanor offense involving physical injury, the threat of physical injury or a sexual offense if the act was committed by an adult.

Waiver - the sending of a case from the juvenile court to adult court for trial.

Witness - a person who has seen or knows something about the delinquent act.