

Language of Delinquency Cases in Juvenile Court

The purposes and procedures of the juvenile justice system are different in many respects from those of the adult criminal system. Those differences are reflected in the terminology of the two systems.

<u>Adult Criminal System</u>	<u>Juvenile Justice Terminology</u>
1. Defendant	Juvenile
2. Crime	Offense or delinquent offense
3. Arrest	Secure custody
4. Order for Arrest	Secure Custody Order
5. Warrant or Indictment	Petition
6. Trial	Hearing
7. Convict (verb)	Adjudicate
8. Conviction	Adjudication
9. Guilty plea	Admission
10. Not Guilty plea	Denial
11. Plea transcript	Transcript of Admission
12. Prior conviction	Prior Adjudication
13. Prior record level	Delinquency History
14. Sentencing hearing	Disposition Hearing
15. Pre-Sentencing Report	Predisposition Report
16. Sentence	Disposition
17. Sentencing Grid	Disposition Chart
18. Probation Officer	Juvenile Court Counselor

Other terms:

Bound over: transfer to Superior Court.

Violation: An actual motion then hearing and finding of violation. We often talk about acts being violations but they aren't until there is the motion and finding.

Complaint: Agency policy is that we receive "complaints" on AOC petition forms. The complaint becomes a petition only if it is approved for filing.