

Frequently Used Terms in Juvenile Court

Adjudication – Hearing held to determine the facts of the case and an appropriate course of action.

Commitment – A conclusion that places a youth in custody for supervision, treatment, and rehabilitation.

Community Schools – Community schools are non-residential, community-based alternative schools for delinquent and unruly offenders.

Contract/Attention Homes – Provide residential treatment for delinquent and unruly youth whose home situation is contributing to their behavior.

Designated Felony Commitment – An adjudication that a youth has committed certain felony acts requiring restrictive custody.

Informal Adjustment – Disposition of a case where the act that is not serious in nature and appears appropriate for non-adjudicatory courses of action.

Intensive Supervision Programs – To minimize out-of-home placements and provide daily contact.

Mediation – Where both parties sit down and try to work out any differences without formal adjudication.

Short Term Treatment Program (STTP) – Refers to juvenile proceedings, and states "...the court may, in addition to any other treatment or rehabilitation, order a child to serve up to a maximum of 90 days in a youth development center..."

Non-Secure Detention – The Community Detention Program provides a non-secure alternative to detention in a Regional Youth Detention Center.

Regional Youth Detention Center – Centers that provide temporary, secure care, and supervision of youth who are charged with/found guilty of crimes.

Specialized Residential Services – These youth require either long-term residential placement or specialized treatment services for mental health care.

Victim Impact Statement – A statement that gives the victim the opportunity to put into writing how they were affected by the crime that was committed against them. This goes into the file and is read by the DA's Office and the Judge.

Wrap-around Services – Services provided for those youth returning home.

Juvenile Court Mission Statement

To restore and redirect, as law abiding citizens, children who have admitted to or been found in violation of the law, while protecting the best interests of each child and the community, leaving the children in their homes whenever possible.

Chief Judge: Desiree Sutton Peagler

Judge: Vincent Crawford

Judge: Linda B. Haynes

Judge: Elliot A. Shoenthal

DeKalb County Juvenile Court

8:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Monday - Friday

Gregory A. Adams Juvenile Justice Center

4309 Memorial Drive

Decatur, GA 30032

Main: 404/294-2700

Intake: 404/294-2765

Victim-Witness Assistance: 404/297-4491

FAX: 404/294-2710

Directions

From North/West

285 South/East to Exit 41 (Memorial Drive)

From South/East

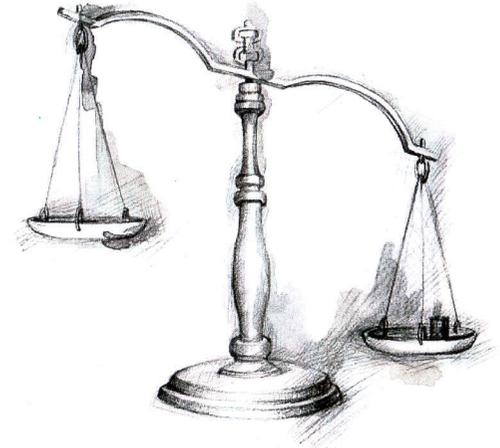
285 North/West to Exit 41 (Memorial Drive)

Go west on Memorial Drive (towards the jail)

The DeKalb County Juvenile Court building is located just past the jail on the left.

Free parking in the vicinity

Victim-Witness Assistance Program Juvenile Court



Office of the District Attorney
Stone Mountain Judicial Circuit
DeKalb County, Georgia

Gwendolyn Keyes Fleming
District Attorney

www.dekalbda.org

Victim-Witness Assistance
404/297-4491

General

The Juvenile Court Division of the DeKalb District Attorney's Office is responsible for prosecuting criminal cases against juveniles in front of the Juvenile Court.

Juvenile Court vs. Adult Court

The juvenile justice system functions differently from the adult justice system. Juvenile courts tend to gear penalties towards rehabilitation rather than punishment, judges rather than juries decide cases, and records of offenses can be sealed after two (2) years. The juvenile crime is called an act of "delinquency". Juvenile Courts have their own special rules, procedures, and terminology. The following list of commonly used terms in Juvenile Court shows the correlation to the terminology in the adult system.

Juvenile Justice System	Adult Criminal Justice System
Adjudication Hearing	Trial
Found Delinquent	Convicted/Found Guilty
Disposition	Sentencing
Detention	Jail

Types of Juvenile Court Programs

Special Services

- Teen Court
- Girls/Boys Peer Group

Life Skills / Anger Management

- Teen Peace
- Winning Circle
- Anger Management

Parenting Support

- Daylight Program
- Strengthening Families

Counseling

- Family Ties
- Sexual Offender

Substance Abuse

- Drug Court
- Prime for Life!
- Marijuana Anonymous

Frequently Asked Questions

How Long Will Court Be?

Juvenile Court proceedings are one day. However, certain cases may be continued to another date for different reasons. The District Attorney's Office will try to notify you if we know of any changes ahead of time.

What Can I Expect In The Courtroom?

Juvenile Court is closed to the public. When you testify, you will be sworn in and attorneys for the State and defendant will ask questions. Appropriate dress is required in Juvenile Court.

As A Victim, Do I Need An Attorney?

No. In a criminal/delinquent matter the District Attorney's Office, on behalf of the victim and the State, proceeds on the charges against the individual who committed the act against you.

Will I Have To See The Defendant?

You will see the defendant only if the case goes to an Adjudicatory Hearing (trial). The District Attorney's Office provides a separate waiting area for victims and witnesses.

What Other Options Do I Have To Collect Restitution?

You may inquire with a private attorney about your options in civil court to collect from the parents of the defendant.

What Happens If I Am Unable To Appear On The Date That Is On My Subpoena?

Please call our office as soon as possible. The sooner you call the better chance we have of resetting the case in which you are involved. If you have a problem on the day of court, call the office so that we may speak to the Judge on your behalf and possibly reset the case.

It is VERY important that you contact this office with any change of address or phone number.

Juvenile Court Case Flow

Formal Complaint – Taken by a law enforcement officer or a victim. The complaint is the criminal charge.

Intake – Where complaints are taken and preliminary investigations are prepared.

Petition To The Court – A petition is filed in Juvenile Court. The petition sets forth the charges against the juvenile. There are time limitations for a petition to be filed, depending on whether the juvenile is held or released.

Detention Hearing – To determine if reasonable grounds exist ("Probable Cause") to believe the allegations are true.

Arraignment – At Arraignment, the charges against the juvenile are read aloud in Court and the juvenile admits or denies the alleged offenses.

Adjudication Hearing – Equivalent to a trial in adult court. The Judge determines whether there is a "delinquency" (guilty) finding regarding the juvenile.

Disposition Hearing – Once a juvenile is adjudicated (found guilty), a separate hearing is set to determine the type of treatment, rehabilitation, or supervision that is needed for the juvenile. Should the juvenile live in another county, disposition can be transferred to that county.

Restitution – Restitution is considered part of the juvenile's rehabilitation in an effort to make the victim financially whole. Restitution is the out-of-pocket expense that the victim incurred because of the actions of the juvenile. You will be asked to bring all receipts, insurance information, and records of any other expenses that were not covered.