

The goal of the Juvenile Court Advocacy Program is to provide you with support and to assist you through this difficult time. The services provided by the program are free of charge and include:

Notification:

We will provide you with initial notification of the charges and the status of your case. You will also be notified of any court proceedings.

Victim Impact Statement:

We will assist you in preparing a Victim Impact Statement which is used during the disposition or sentencing. The purpose of the Victim Impact Statement is to express how this crime has affected you and your family.

Education:

We will provide you with information about the juvenile court system.

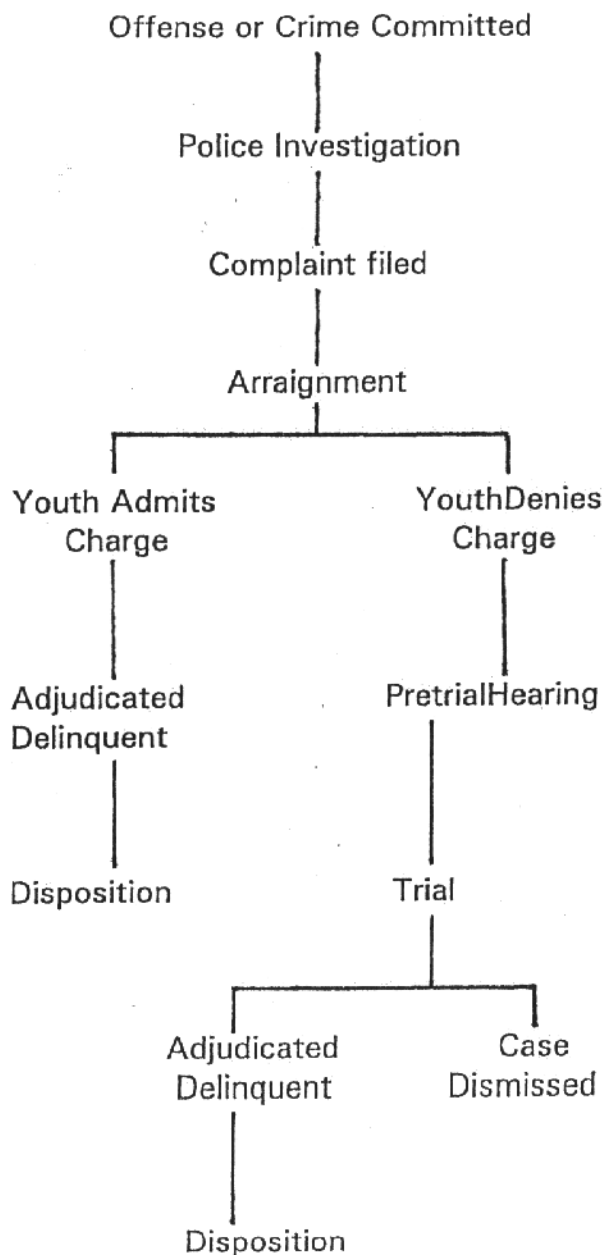
Court Accompaniment:

We will accompany you to any court proceedings that you are required to attend to offer moral support.

Filing for Compensation:

We will assist you in filing for compensation under the Ohio Victims of Crime Compensation Program, which may reimburse you for medical expenses, counseling expenses, and/or lost wages.

Steps in the Juvenile Court System:



**Definitions to help you better understand
The Juvenile Court System:**

ARRAIGNMENT

The juvenile is brought before the judge/magistrate to enter an admission or denial.

PRETRIAL

This is an opportunity for the Assistant Prosecutor and the Defense Attorney to discuss the facts in the case and any legal issues that need to be resolved prior to trial. The attorneys may discuss the potential for the juvenile's admission to the offense, as charged, or to the juvenile's admission to a lesser or different offense, if appropriate. Some cases are resolved at the pretrial and there is no need for a trial. Your input at this critical stage is vital to a fair resolution.

PLEA

A plea indicates that the defendant is going to admit to some or all of the charges. Following the plea you will be sent a form - VICTIM IMPACT STATEMENT - to complete. This is your opportunity to explain what has occurred, any damages you have suffered, how you have been affected by the crime, as well as your opinion as to what should happen to the defendant. The juvenile probation department will use this information to make a recommendation for sentencing.

TRIAL

The evidence pertaining to the case is presented to the magistrate/judge. Cases involving juveniles are not open to the public, which means that few people are able to be present. A Victim/Witness Advocate may be available to offer support and answer your questions regarding the trial.

DISPOSITION

Sentencing is up to the Court within general guidelines. After reviewing the facts of the case study, your Victim Impact Statement, and any other information, the Court then issues its decision as to the disposition of the case.