

Juvenile Law

Juvenile law deals with criminal offenders who are under the age of 18 and are not yet considered “adults” in the eyes of the law. Most states have enacted a juvenile code and the main goal of the juvenile justice system is rehabilitation rather than punishment.

The Federal Juvenile Delinquency Act defines juvenile delinquency (any act that is otherwise a crime, but is committed by someone under 18 years of age) and sets forth rules by which state laws must comply with regard to juvenile court procedures and punishments.

The most common offenses found in Juvenile Law are truancy (skipping school), violating a city or county curfew, underage possession and consumption of alcohol, underage possession and use of tobacco, running away, and ungovernability (being beyond the control of parents or guardians).

Minors can be sentenced to several types of punishment like juvenile detention, community service, paying fines, court ordered counseling or education programs, suspension of driving privileges, etc...

Example: Many cities and counties have curfew laws that effect minors/juveniles (under the age of 18).

