

***The Juvenile Justice System, 9e (Merlo)***

**Chapter 1 An Overview of Criminal Justice in the United States**

**1.1 Multiple Choice Questions**

1) When making decisions about juvenile offenders, intake officers have:

- A) No discretion
- B) Much discretion
- C) Only two choices, dismissal or juvenile court
- D) The same power as juvenile court judges

Answer: B

Page Ref: 22

Objective: Explain the juvenile justice process.

Level: Intermediate

2) The power of a court to hear a particular case is called:

- A) Discretion
- B) Court power
- C) Jurisdiction
- D) *Parens patriae*

Answer: C

Page Ref: 3

Objective: Explain the juvenile justice process.

Level: Basic

3) A judgment rendered on the petition filed with the juvenile court by others is called a(n):

- A) Verdict
- B) Sentence
- C) Disposition
- D) Adjudication

Answer: D

Page Ref: 24

Objective: Explain the juvenile justice process.

Level: Basic

4) A conditional disposition would be:

- A) Probation
- B) A warning
- C) Secure confinement
- D) Placement in foster home

Answer: A

Page Ref: 26

Objective: Explain the juvenile justice process.

Level: Basic

5) When juveniles are apprehended by police for suspicious behavior, but not necessarily for any specific crime, they are:

- A) Arrested
- B) Taken into custody
- C) Wards of the court
- D) None of the above

Answer: B

Page Ref: 17

Objective: Explain the juvenile justice process.

Level: Intermediate

6) Curfew ordinances are enacted as:

- A) Delinquency prevention strategies
- B) Status offense strategies
- C) Deinstitutionalization strategies
- D) Criminal court strategies

Answer: A

Page Ref: 11

Objective: Differentiate between the types of juvenile offenders, including delinquents and status offenders.

Level: Intermediate

7) The age jurisdiction of juvenile courts is determined by:

- A) State governors
- B) State legislatures
- C) Federal government
- D) Courts

Answer: B

Page Ref: 3

Objective: Provide a broad overview of the juvenile justice system and its historical foundations.

Level: Basic

8) Those who support the "get-tough" approach believe juvenile offenders should be:

- A) Punished
- B) Rehabilitated
- C) Treated
- D) Educated

Answer: A

Page Ref: 5

Objective: Provide a broad overview of the juvenile justice system and its historical foundations.

Level: Basic

9) Which of the following would NOT be considered a status offense?

- A) Running away from home
- B) Curfew violation
- C) Shoplifting
- D) Truancy

Answer: C

Page Ref: 9

Objective: Differentiate between the types of juvenile offenders, including delinquents and status offenders.

Level: Basic

10) The juvenile equivalent of an adult sentence is called a(n):

- A) Adjudication
- B) Finding
- C) Disposition
- D) Petition

Answer: C

Page Ref: 24

Objective: Compare and contrast juvenile and criminal courts.

Level: Intermediate

11) Curfew laws have been enacted in many U.S. cities in an effort to:

- A) Keep youths home and families together
- B) Protect juveniles from street criminals
- C) Allow police to focus on serious crime
- D) Reduce the incidence of juvenile crime

Answer: D

Page Ref: 12

Objective: Differentiate between the types of juvenile offenders, including delinquents and status offenders.

Level: Intermediate

12) The social process where juveniles are deemed undesirable or deviant because of multiple court appearances or incarcerations is known as:

- A) Delinquency
- B) Criminality
- C) Deviance
- D) Stigmatization

Answer: D

Page Ref: 12

Objective: Differentiate between the types of juvenile offenders, including delinquents and status offenders.

Level: Intermediate

13) Keeping juvenile offenders from contact with adult offenders is one purpose of the:

- A) Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act
- B) Juvenile Delinquency Control Statute
- C) Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act
- D) Juvenile Prevention of Delinquency Act

Answer: C

Page Ref: 12

Objective: Compare and contrast juvenile and criminal courts.

Level: Basic

14) The federally-mandated goal of removing status offenders from secure juvenile institutions is known as:

- A) Decarceration
- B) Deinstitutionalization
- C) Disproportionate minority contact
- D) The jail removal initiative

Answer: B

Page Ref: 13

Objective: Differentiate between the types of juvenile offenders, including delinquents and status offenders.

Level: Basic

15) Youths in need of social service intervention, supervision, or placement due to circumstances in their home or families beyond their control are known as:

- A) Delinquents
- B) Status offenders
- C) Abused children
- D) Dependent and neglected children

Answer: D

Page Ref: 14

Objective: Differentiate between the types of juvenile offenders, including delinquents and status offenders.

Level: Basic

16) Which of the following is a potential outcome of DSO?

- A) More status offenders will commit crimes
- B) An increased number of status offenders will be placed in secure facilities
- C) Fewer juveniles will be brought into the juvenile justice system
- D) The number of status offenders in secure facilities will be reduced

Answer: D

Page Ref: 12

Objective: Differentiate between the types of juvenile offenders, including delinquents and status offenders.

Level: Intermediate

17) The action of police officers of redefining juvenile acts as delinquent when they are not is known as:

- A) Relabeling
- B) Net widening
- C) Criminality
- D) Deinstitutionalization

Answer: A

Page Ref: 15

Objective: Differentiate between the types of juvenile offenders, including delinquents and status offenders.

Level: Basic

18) Bringing juveniles into the juvenile justice system who would not otherwise be involved in delinquent activity is known as:

- A) Relabeling
- B) Net widening
- C) Criminality
- D) Deinstitutionalization

Answer: B

Page Ref: 14

Objective: Provide a broad overview of the juvenile justice system and its historical foundations.

Level: Basic

19) Juvenile and criminal court proceedings are:

- A) Informal
- B) Formal
- C) Adversarial
- D) Sympathetic

Answer: C

Page Ref: 15

Objective: Compare and contrast juvenile and criminal courts.

Level: Basic

20) Most juveniles enter the juvenile justice system by way of:

- A) Police action
- B) Referrals from social service agencies
- C) Complaints from neighbors
- D) Parental action

Answer: A

Page Ref: 16

Objective: Provide a broad overview of the juvenile justice system and its historical foundations.

Level: Intermediate

21) A decision made by a police officer that a youth should be held temporarily is known as:

- A) Arrest
- B) Taken into custody
- C) Detention
- D) Adjudication

Answer: B

Page Ref: 17

Objective: Provide a broad overview of the juvenile justice system and its historical foundations.

Level: Basic

22) Action taken by states and encouraged by the federal government designed to avoid holding juveniles in adult jails is known as the:

- A) Status offender project
- B) Juvenile jail alternative
- C) Alternative offender program
- D) Jail removal initiative

Answer: D

Page Ref: 18

Objective: Compare and contrast juvenile and criminal courts.

Level: Basic

23) The authority to hold juveniles suspects without bail before trial if they are deemed likely to flee from the jurisdiction or pose a serious risk to others is known as:

- A) Incarceration
- B) Imprisonment
- C) Juvenile court discretion
- D) Preventive detention

Answer: D

Page Ref: 18

Objective: Explain the juvenile justice process.

Level: Intermediate

24) Notifications made to juvenile courts that a juvenile requires the court's attention best define:

- A) Warnings
- B) Advisements
- C) Referrals
- D) Arrests

Answer: C

Page Ref: 20

Objective: Explain the juvenile justice process.

Level: Basic

25) An official document filed in juvenile court on behalf of a juvenile that brings charges against the juvenile and asks the court to hear the case is known as a:

- A) Complaint
- B) Warrant
- C) Booking
- D) Petition

Answer: D

Page Ref: 20

Objective: Explain the juvenile justice process.

Level: Intermediate

26) The screening procedure usually conducted by a juvenile probation officer to determine whether to release a juvenile offender to parental custody or recommend detention for further court action is known as:

- A) Review
- B) Referral
- C) Intake
- D) Booking

Answer: C

Page Ref: 20

Objective: Explain the juvenile justice process.

Level: Intermediate

27) The judgment handed down by a juvenile court on a petition is known as a(n):

- A) Verdict
- B) Adjudication
- C) Finding
- D) Disposition

Answer: B

Page Ref: 24

Objective: Explain the juvenile justice process.

Level: Intermediate

28) The disposition of a juvenile's case is the same as an adult being:

- A) Tried
- B) Sentenced
- C) Convicted
- D) Imprisoned

Answer: B

Page Ref: 24

Objective: Explain the juvenile justice process.

Level: Intermediate

29) Which juvenile disposition is the least punitive?

- A) Nominal
- B) Conditional
- C) Custodial
- D) Secondary

Answer: A

Page Ref: 25

Objective: Explain the juvenile justice process.

Level: Intermediate

30) Nonsecure custody is an example of a:

- A) Nominal disposition
- B) Conditional disposition
- C) Custodial disposition
- D) Secondary disposition

Answer: C

Page Ref: 26

Objective: Explain the juvenile justice process.

Level: Intermediate

## 1.2 True-False Questions

1) The juvenile court system varies from state to state.

Answer: TRUE

Page Ref: 2

Objective: Provide a broad overview of the juvenile justice system and its historical foundations.

Level: Basic

2) The age of juvenile offenders varies by state.

Answer: TRUE

Page Ref: 3

Objective: Provide a broad overview of the juvenile justice system and its historical foundations.

Level: Basic

3) Under *parens patriae*, the King as sovereign acts to protect children and other dependents.

Answer: TRUE

Page Ref: 4

Objective: Provide a broad overview of the juvenile justice system and its historical foundations.

Level: Intermediate

4) The "get-tough" movement emphasizes the treatment and rehabilitation of juvenile offenders.

Answer: FALSE

Page Ref: 5

Objective: Provide a broad overview of the juvenile justice system and its historical foundations.

Level: Intermediate



5) A status offense is conduct by a juvenile that would not be a crime if committed by an adult.

Answer: TRUE

Page Ref: 9

Objective: Differentiate between the types of juvenile offenders, including delinquents and status offenders.

Level: Basic

6) The purpose of deinstitutionalization is to remove status offenders from the possibility of confinement in juvenile secure facilities.

Answer: TRUE

Page Ref: 12

Objective: Differentiate between the types of juvenile offenders, including delinquents and status offenders.

Level: Intermediate

7) Juvenile courts are the same as criminal courts.

Answer: FALSE

Page Ref: 15

Objective: Compare and contrast juvenile and criminal courts.

Level: Intermediate

8) The standard of proof beyond a reasonable doubt is only applicable in adult criminal court.

Answer: FALSE

Page Ref: 16

Objective: Compare and contrast juvenile and criminal courts.

Level: Intermediate

9) The terms "arrest" and "taken into custody" mean the same thing.

Answer: TRUE

Page Ref: 17

Objective: Compare and contrast juvenile and criminal courts.

Level: Basic

10) States are forbidden from holding juveniles in adult jails, even for short periods.

Answer: FALSE

Page Ref: 17

Objective: Compare and contrast juvenile and criminal courts.

Level: Intermediate

11) Preventive detention of juveniles for short periods of time violates their rights under the U.S. Constitution.

Answer: FALSE

Page Ref: 18

Objective: Explain the juvenile justice process.

Level: Basic

12) Most referrals to juvenile court are made by law enforcement officers.

Answer: TRUE

Page Ref: 20

Objective: Explain the juvenile justice process.

Level: Basic

13) Petitions specify the reasons for juveniles being held to answer for their conduct in juvenile court.

Answer: TRUE

Page Ref: 20

Objective: Explain the juvenile justice process.

Level: Basic

14) Intake officers consider both legal and extralegal factors in intake decision-making.

Answer: TRUE

Page Ref: 22

Objective: Explain the juvenile justice process.

Level: Intermediate

15) Juvenile court proceedings are becoming increasingly adversarial.

Answer: TRUE

Page Ref: 24

Objective: Provide a broad overview of the juvenile justice system and its historical foundations.

Level: Basic

16) A decision about the guilt or innocence of a juvenile is called a disposition.

Answer: FALSE

Page Ref: 24

Objective: Explain the juvenile justice process.

Level: Basic

17) A nominal punishment might be a verbal warning or reprimand.

Answer: TRUE

Page Ref: 25

Objective: Explain the juvenile justice process.

Level: Basic

18) Restitution to the victim of juvenile offenders is an example of restorative justice.

Answer: TRUE

Page Ref: 26

Objective: Explain the juvenile justice process.

Level: Intermediate

### 1.3 Fill in the Blank Questions

1) \_\_\_\_\_ is the power of a court to hear a particular case.

Answer: Jurisdiction

Page Ref: 3

Objective: Provide a broad overview of the juvenile justice system and its historical foundations.

Level: Basic

2) The \_\_\_\_\_ movement favors maximum penalties and punishments for crimes or delinquent acts.

Answer: Get-tough

Page Ref: 5

Objective: Provide a broad overview of the juvenile justice system and its historical foundations.

Level: Basic

3) To minimize \_\_\_\_\_, diversion of certain types of juvenile offenders from the juvenile justice system has been recommended.

Answer: Stigmatization

Page Ref: 12

Objective: Differentiate between the types of juvenile offenders, including delinquents and status offenders.

Level: Basic

4) \_\_\_\_\_ refers to the removal of status offenders from secure juvenile facilities.

Answer: Deinstitutionalization

Page Ref: 13

Objective: Differentiate between the types of juvenile offenders, including delinquents and status offenders.

Level: Basic

5) The action of police officers who view status offenders as delinquents is an example of \_\_\_\_\_.

Answer: Relabeling

Page Ref: 15

Objective: Differentiate between the types of juvenile offenders, including delinquents and status offenders.

Level: Basic

6) A court where there is a written record kept of court proceedings is known as a court of \_\_\_\_\_.

Answer: Record

Page Ref: 16

Objective: Explain the juvenile justice process.

Level: Basic

7) \_\_\_\_\_ are notifications made to juvenile justice authorities that a juvenile requires the court's attention.

Answer: Referrals

Page Ref: 20

Objective: Provide a broad overview of the juvenile justice system and its historical foundations.

Level: Basic

8) An official document filed in juvenile court on behalf of the juvenile that specifies the reasons for a youth's appearance is known as a(n) \_\_\_\_\_.

Answer: Petition

Page Ref: 20

Objective: Provide a broad overview of the juvenile justice system and its historical foundations.

Level: Basic

9) \_\_\_\_\_ is the procedure used by intake officers and prosecution to determine whether further action on behalf of the juvenile is required.

Answer: Screening

Page Ref: 21

Objective: Explain the juvenile justice process.

Level: Basic

10) \_\_\_\_\_ is a judgment or action on a petition filed with the juvenile court.

Answer: Adjudication

Page Ref: 24

Objective: Provide a broad overview of the juvenile justice system and its historical foundations.

Level: Basic

11) Placing a juvenile in secure custody is considered the \_\_\_\_\_ resort for serious juvenile offenders.

Answer: Last

Page Ref: 26

Objective: Explain the juvenile justice process.

Level: Basic

12) Parole is known in the juvenile system as \_\_\_\_\_.

Answer: Aftercare

Page Ref: 28

Objective: Explain the juvenile justice process.

Level: Basic

## 1.4 Matching Questions

Match the juvenile justice action in Column 1 with the adult criminal action in Column 2.

- A) Parole
- B) Sentencing
- C) Trial
- D) Arrest

1) Take into custody

Page Ref: 17-28

Objective: Provide a broad overview of the juvenile justice system and its historical foundations.

Level: Basic

2) Adjudication

Page Ref: 17-28

Objective: Provide a broad overview of the juvenile justice system and its historical foundations.

Level: Basic

3) Disposition

Page Ref: 17-28

Objective: Provide a broad overview of the juvenile justice system and its historical foundations.

Level: Basic

4) Aftercare

Page Ref: 17-28

Objective: Provide a broad overview of the juvenile justice system and its historical foundations.

Level: Basic

Answers: 1) D 2) C 3) B 4) A

Match the actions in Column 1 to the types of disposition in Column 2.

- A) Conditional disposition
- B) Secure custodial disposition
- C) Nominal disposition
- D) Nonsecure custodial disposition

5) Foster home placement

Page Ref: 25-26

Objective: Provide a broad overview of the juvenile justice system and its historical foundations.

Level: Intermediate

6) Verbal warning

Page Ref: 25-26

Objective: Provide a broad overview of the juvenile justice system and its historical foundations.

Level: Intermediate

7) Restitution

Page Ref: 25-26

Objective: Provide a broad overview of the juvenile justice system and its historical foundations.

Level: Intermediate

8) Incarceration in secure facility

Page Ref: 25-26

Objective: Provide a broad overview of the juvenile justice system and its historical foundations.

Level: Intermediate

Answers: 5) D 6) C 7) A 8) B

Match the conduct in Column 1 with the definition in Column 2.

- A) Violate the law by being on the streets after certain hours
- B) Leave home for a long time without consent of parents
- C) Habitually absent from school without excuse
- D) Conduct that would be crime if committed by an adult

9) Runaway

Page Ref: 6-11

Objective: Differentiate between the types of juvenile offenders, including delinquents and status offenders.

Level: Intermediate

10) Truant

Page Ref: 6-11

Objective: Differentiate between the types of juvenile offenders, including delinquents and status offenders.

Level: Intermediate

11) Curfew violator

Page Ref: 6-11

Objective: Differentiate between the types of juvenile offenders, including delinquents and status offenders.

Level: Intermediate

12) Delinquent

Page Ref: 6-11

Objective: Differentiate between the types of juvenile offenders, including delinquents and status offenders.

Level: Intermediate

Answers: 9) B 10) C 11) A 12) D

## 1.5 Essay Questions

1) What is jurisdiction and its scope in juvenile justice courts? Describe the types of cases that might be heard in juvenile courts.

Answer: Jurisdiction is the power of a court to hear a particular case. The scope of juvenile court varies from state to state and is limited based on age, and is focused on the offender, not the offense. Emphasis was on treatment and rehabilitation although there has been a shift in philosophy to accountability and personal responsibility. Avoidance of stigmatization is a priority. Cases heard include delinquent acts, status offenses, and dependent and neglected children.

Page Ref: 2-6

Objective: Explain the juvenile justice process.

Level: Difficult

2) Explain the conflict between the *parens patriae* doctrine and the get-tough movement. Are they compatible?

Answer: Answers will vary. *Parens patriae* is treatment and rehabilitative-oriented, while the get-tough movement emphasis is on accountability and personal responsibility, and treating juvenile cases more like adult criminal cases. Legislature is shifting toward get-tough practice, however this may be in conflict with public opinion.

Page Ref: 4-5

Objective: Provide a broad overview of the juvenile justice system and its historical foundations.

Level: Difficult

3) A 14-year-old girl shoots and kills her parents. You're her intake officer. What considerations are relevant in determining the best strategy for dealing with the girl and her behavior?

Answer: Intake is a screening process and several legal and extralegal factors are considered. They may include: age, attitude, demeanor, prior contact with the juvenile justice system, the seriousness of the offense, statements from the offender and others, professional evaluations.

Page Ref: 21-23

Objective: Differentiate between the types of juvenile offenders, including delinquents and status offenders.

Level: Intermediate

4) Explain the difference between juveniles who are delinquent and juveniles who are status offenders.

Answer: Status offenses involve violations that are specific to juveniles, but juveniles that engage in crimes to which adults could be charged are called delinquents. Delinquents, in addition to being considered delinquent if they commit a crime, are also considered delinquent if they are disobedient, indecent, or immoral, and or are in need of treatment, rehabilitation, or supervision. Status offenses involve acts for which an adult would not be charged. For example, running away, truancy, curfew violations, and underage liquor law violations are all status offenses.

Page Ref: 6-9

Objective: Differentiate between the types of juvenile offenders, including delinquents and status offenders.

Level: Basic



## 1.6 Critical Thinking Questions

1) A 14-year-old girl shoots and kills her parents. What factors should be considered in whether the matter should be handled in juvenile court or transferred to adult criminal court?

Answer: The *parens patriae* doctrine and the transition to the get-tough movement have impacted the discretion and decision-making of transferring juveniles into the adult system. Factors that should be included in the answer include the specific age of offender, the impact on the victim and society, and the nature and circumstances of offense.

Page Ref: 5-6, 15-17, 23

Objective: Compare and contrast juvenile and criminal courts.

Level: Difficult

2) What is the societal value of diverting status offenders from secure juvenile facilities?

Answer: Several values can be discussed. Some included: it aids in avoiding stigmatization, it is inconsistent with their mission of the juvenile court, it has a negative social and psychological effect on the well-being of status offenders, there is a larger cost associated with placement in juvenile facilities, and status offenders would be placed with more serious delinquent offenders which may prove detrimental.

Page Ref: 12-14

Objective: Differentiate between the types of juvenile offenders, including delinquents and status offenders.

Level: Difficult

3) Discuss the key aspects of the three types of dispositions a judge can give and under what circumstances a judge might use each type of disposition.

Answer: Answers should include a basic description of nominal dispositions such as verbal warnings or reprimands which are used for low-risk first-time offenders. Conditional dispositions involve probation over a certain term and various conditions which is the most frequently imposed sanction and is typically used for offenders to address the offender's specific needs. Finally, custodial dispositions involving nonsecure custody and secure confinement involving shelter care, foster homes, group homes, camps for those youth needing more permanent placement arrangements for those who have committed the more serious offenses.

Page Ref: 24-27

Objective: Explain the various kinds of dispositions that judges can make.

Level: Intermediate