

What are my rights and responsibilities as a parent?

Parents have legal responsibility for their children, and may be held financially responsible for damages caused by their children. For example, you may have to pay for what your child stole or for a victim's medical bills and lost wages. Parents may also have to pay for their child's lawyer, Juvenile Hall services (like food and laundry), and fees to keep your child detained. This can be expensive, so talk to the Court about your ability to pay.



The court has a Financial Evaluation Office that you can contact at (714) 935-6753 for information regarding payments, obligations, and financial hearings. You can also ask a probation officer where to seek financial, medical, and/or psychological assistance. It is always a good idea to speak with a lawyer for any legal advice and assistance.

TIPS FOR PARENTS:

It is important that you make a dedicated effort to appear at your child's court appearance(s). Your presence, along with copies of any related documents (i.e. report cards, certificates of participation in sports or other youth programs, and proof of counseling services received), shows your support and may assist the court in determining a suitable outcome for your child.



For more information please contact the Juvenile Court directly at the address or phone number below:

**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA,
COUNTY OF ORANGE**

Juvenile Court

341 The City Drive South
Orange, CA 92868

Phone: (657) 622-5509

Fax: (657) 622-8368

Web: www.occourts.org/directory/juvenile



Orange County Juvenile Court Mission Statement:

Committed to excellence by serving our community with compassion, innovation and accountability in administering justice for children and families.

**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA,
COUNTY OF ORANGE**

Juvenile Court



Delinquency Court

Information for Children
and Parents When
Appearing at Court

What is Delinquency Court?

California law gives the court authority over juvenile crime. This court handles cases where children are accused of committing crime. For serious or violent crimes, a judge will decide if a child should be treated as an adult.



Instead of proving guilt in Criminal Court, Delinquency Court intends to accomplish the following:

1. Improve the welfare of a child.
2. Address the needs and concerns of victims.
3. Protect the safety of the community,

To accomplish this, the court will consider facts and determine a suitable outcome for each child that comes to court.

When do I have to go to court?

If the District Attorney files a petition with the court alleging that your child committed a crime, you will be notified by mail with a copy of the petition and a Notice to Appear. Be sure to read this notice carefully. It will explain the date and time that you and your child are scheduled to appear in court. Hearings are conducted at the Lamoreaux Justice Center in the City of Orange. The courthouse address is located on the back of this pamphlet.



If your child fails to appear at the scheduled hearing time, the court may issue a warrant for their arrest.

How do I get to the courthouse?

The courthouse is located at the intersection of Interstate 5 and State Highway 22, across the street from The Block at Orange shopping mall. There is a public parking garage located next to the courthouse on Dawn Way. There will be a charge to park within this garage, and you will need to pay this fee when you exit the garage.



You are required to pass through a weapons and security screening each time you enter the courthouse. Once you complete security screening, check-in at the Juvenile Check-In desk located directly past the elevators on the first floor. The receptionist will ask for the child's name and who brought them to court. The receptionist will notify the courtroom of your arrival, and tell you which courtroom to report to. Delinquency cases are heard on the first and fourth floor of the courthouse. You may use the elevators or stairs to access your courtroom. Please wait outside of the courtroom until your name is called. Since there are several matters scheduled in the court room, it may take a few hours for your case to be heard. Please be patient and prepared for a long wait outside of the courtroom.

If you require assistance or an accommodation please notify the Court a few days before your appearance. You may download an accommodation request form (MC-410) from the court's web site at: <http://www.occourts.gov/directory/ada>.



Will my child need a lawyer?

Your child needs an lawyer to represent them in court. If your child does not have a lawyer, or you are unable to afford one, a Public Defender will be appointed for them by the Court. The Public Defender will contact you prior to the hearing to discuss your case and provide legal support and assistance. When you are called before the Court the Public Defender will announce their appearance on your behalf and communicate directly with the judge.



What will happen in court?

The judge will ask your child some questions confirming that your child is aware of why they are in court. If the judge finds that your child understands the circumstances of their case, they will ask your child if they admit to the allegations charged against them. (This is similar to a defendant pleading "guilty" or "not guilty" in criminal court.)

If your child admits to the allegations the judge may place the minor under the supervision of the court. Possible outcomes of court supervision include informal probation, community service, drug & alcohol counseling, time in juvenile hall, payment of fines and restitution to victims, or any appropriate combination thereof.



If your child denies the allegations, the judge will accept the denial and set a trial for a future date. Before this trial date, your child and lawyer will be able to prepare evidence and subpoena witnesses to support their denial.