THE COURT PROCESS

Your Judge makes all final decisions in Juvenile Court. Below is an overview of how the Court Process flows in terms of "what happens next".

STEP ONE: ADVISORY HEARING

Before the Advisory Hearing, you will meet your Attorney who will help you with your charges. Your Attorney will then appear with you at the Advisory Hearing and talk to the Judge on your behalf. The Advisory Hearing is the first step in the court process and is where the Judge will inform you of the charges pending against you and decide if you, the Juvenile, will be detained or released. Both options would be pending Adjudication.







DETAINED

STEP TWO: ADJUDICATION HEARING (ADJUDICATION OR PLEA)

This is where the County Attorney must prove beyond a reasonable doubt that you committed the crime that you're being charged with.



ADJUDICATION

Adjudication is where your Judge will listen to the evidence including listening to witness testimony, then the Judge will decide if you are guilty (responsible) or not.

PLEA (ADMITTING GUILT)

Plea is where you will accept and sign the agreement that provides your potential consequences for your offense and will proceed to the Disposition Hearing.





NOT RESPONSIBLE/CASE DISMISSED

If your Judge finds you are not responsible (not guilty), or dismisses the case, you are free to go and the Court Process stops here.







RESPONSIBLE

If your Judge finds you are responsible (guilty), the Judge will set a Disposition Hearing (see below).



STEP THREE: DISPOSITION HEARING (SENTENCING)

This hearing is where your Judge will hear the County Attorney, the Defense Attorney, and your Juvenile Probation Officer's recommendations for your consequences. Your Judge will then make a decision based on the charge, the law, and your social history. From here, the Judge will assign your consequences, supervision, and services to assist with positive behavior change.

TYPES OF CONSEQUENCES:

Probation, Detention, Counseling/Treatment, Fines/Restitution, Electronic Monitoring, Community Service, Commit To ADJC

FOR MORE INFORMATION, INCLUDING MORE DETAILS ABOUT THE COURT PROCESS, PLEASE SEE THE MARICOPA COUNTY JUVENILE PROBATION HANDBOOK: FOR YOUTH & FAMILY (SCAN THE QR CODE ON THIS PAGE OR REQUEST A PHYSICAL COPY THROUGH YOUR JUVENILE PROBATION OFFICER)

