

Counsel Mandatory Disposition

Hearing: When the Judge orders a pre-disposition report before sentencing and after a plea of guilty has been entered.

No Contact: Restraining orders are not ordered in juvenile cases. The Judge can order a no contact in lieu of a restraining order.

VICTIM'S RIGHTS

- I. Information regarding the case. Juvenile code allows information regarding the offense, adjudication, and disposition of a case to be given to a victim or a member of the victim's immediate family.
- II. HIV/AIDS Testing. A victim of a sexual assault may request that a juvenile who is charged or adjudicated of the offense be tested for HIV/AIDS. The Victim Witness Unit will notify the victim of the results.

- III. Juvenile code provides that a victim has the right to make a statement before disposition.
- IV. Victims may request compensation for injuries from the Victims of Crime Compensation office (VCCO) if eligible.

SERVICES WE PROVIDE

Case updates and information regarding the status of a case, court dates, disposition, and restitution information through letters and phone contact, upon request.

Accompaniment to court proceedings.

Counseling information.

Orientation to the Juvenile Justice System.

A secure waiting area.

Assistance with Victim Impact Forms.

A VICTIM'S GUIDE TO THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM



Sussex County Prosecutors Office

A Unit of the Sussex County
Prosecutor's Office

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The Sussex County Family court, a branch of the Superior Court, handles all juvenile delinquency complaints. Any act committed by someone under the age of 18, which would be either a crime or a disorderly person's offense if committed by an adult, is an act of juvenile delinquency. The family court is held to the same principles of presumption of innocence, burden of proof, and proof beyond a reasonable doubt as the other branches of the Superior Court.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

First Hearing: The equivalent of an adult arraignment. Typically, the court will enter a plea of not guilty and require the juvenile to appear with an attorney at the next scheduled court hearing.

Detention Review: When a juvenile is incarcerated they are reviewed within 24 hours to determine their custodial status. If they are remanded back to detention they are heard again within 48 hours with an attorney.

Think, Act, Grow Program

(TAG): Community based psycho-educational services supervised by the Center for Evaluation and Counseling.

Case Management Conference:

Usually occurs three weeks after a first hearing. The Probation Department, Family Intake and the Prosecutor's Office will make recommendations as to a disposition. If the juvenile accepts the recommendations, a plea of guilty is entered and the juvenile is sentenced. If the juvenile does not accept the recommendations the Judge will schedule a trial date.

Deferred Disposition: A period of supervision, through the Probation Department, that allows for the charges against the juvenile to be dismissed upon successfully completion. court.

Restitution: Requires that the juvenile offender compensate the victim of lost or damaged property, stolen money, or other expenses incurred due to the offense. The Judge orders restitution on the juvenile's ability to pay. If there is more than one defendant restitution can be ordered joint and several. The juvenile's probation officer supervises restitution.

Home Detention Program

(HDP): In lieu of detention on electronic monitoring system with supervision and house arrest with specific conditions.

Home Supervision Program

(HSP): Supervision and house arrest with specific conditions and no electronic monitoring.

Referee: A hearing Officer who will preside and hear complaints of first time offenders. If the juvenile does not accept the recommendations made by Probation and the Prosecutor's Office, the juvenile will be rescheduled to appear in front of the Judge for a Case Management Conference.

ISC (Intake Service

Conference): Diversionary program where the juvenile and parents meet with a probation officer for juvenile offenders who have had no prior court involvement. Upon successful completion of recommendations, the complaint will be dismissed.

Plea: Admission to charges including a factual basis being placed on the record in front of the Judge.

Subpoena: A written official summons to appear in court to give testimony.