

## JUVENILE VS. ADULT CRIMINAL SYSTEM LAWYERS

### How does the Juvenile criminal system differ from the Adult criminal system?

The criminal justice systems for adults and juveniles differ in many significant ways. Their differences vary from state to state, but in general:

- Juveniles are not prosecuted for committing crimes, but rather delinquent acts. When the delinquent acts are very serious, they may be considered crimes and the juvenile may be tried in the adult system.
- Juveniles don't have a right to a public trial by jury. For a juvenile charged with a crime, the trial portion of the case involves a judge hearing evidence and ruling on whether or not the minor is delinquent. This is called an adjudication hearing.
- Once the juvenile has been deemed delinquent, the court will determine what action should be taken. This stage differs from the adult system in the purpose of the action. In the adult system, the goal is to punish. In the juvenile system, on the other hand, the goal is to rehabilitate and serve the minor's best interest.
- Juvenile courts are often more informal than those for adults. For example, rules about the admissibility of evidence may be more lenient.
- Adults and juveniles also share significant rights such as,
  - Right to an attorney
  - The right to confront and cross-examine witnesses
  - The right to notice charges

I'm John Zapalac. Thanks for listening.