

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. This can be expensive, so talk to the Court about your ability to pay.

What happens if my child was detained at juvenile hall?

If a petition was filed against a child who is in custody at juvenile hall, a detention hearing will be held soon after petition is filed. The Judge will decide if your child should be released from custody based on the seriousness of the crime alleged. If released, your child could be released outright, be placed on home supervision or placed on electronic monitoring.

Could my child be charged as an adult?

Yes. If your child is 14 years or older, the district attorney may ask the judge that your child's case be tried in adult court for some serious and violent crimes. At a hearing, the judge will decide whether the case will be transferred to adult court or heard in juvenile court. If your child is younger than 14, he or she cannot be transferred to adult court.

For more information, please contact the Juvenile Court directly using the information below:

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF VENTURA

Juvenile Court
4353 Vineyard Ave.
Oxnard, CA 93036
Phone: (805)289-8820

Website:

www.ventura.courts.ca.gov/juvenile.html

The Juvenile Court provides free counseling and assistance to parents and guardians with a child appearing in juvenile court. A **Family Engagement Consultant** is available on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at the Juvenile Court to further explain juvenile delinquency court procedures or assist with referrals to community resources as needed. **Legal advice is not provided.**

Other ways to contact the Family Engagement Consultant:

Telephone: (805) 289-8826

Email: FEC@ventura.courts.ca.gov

To contact Juvenile Probation:

Juvenile Services (805) 973-5100
Juvenile Facility (805) 981-5676

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF VENTURA Juvenile Court



Delinquency Court

Information for Parents
and Guardians When Your
Child Needs to Appear in
Juvenile Court

What is Delinquency Court?

California law gives the court authority over juvenile crime. This court handles cases where children are accused of committing a 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. Rehabilitation of the child.
3. Address the needs and concerns of victims.
4. 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 address 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. If you are unable to make this hearing, you must call the Public Defender's office at (805) 981-5990.

Where is the courthouse?

The courthouse is located at **4353 Vineyard Avenue, Oxnard, CA 93036**. There is free public parking located in front of the courthouse.



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 on the 2nd floor. You may use the elevators or stairs to access the 2nd floor. You will be given a pager which will be used when the attorney needs to consult with your child and when the case is called into the courtroom by the bailiff. Please wait outside of the courtroom until the pager vibrates. Since there are several matters scheduled in the courtroom, it may take a few hours for your case to be heard. It is best to be prepared for a long wait.

Will everyone know why we are at court?

Most juvenile matters are confidential and personal information about you and the charges are not revealed to the public. Therefore, only one case at a time is called into the courtroom. However, hearings concerning certain serious crimes are open to the public. Those hearings are not confidential.

Can I get an interpreter?

Spanish interpreters are provided daily. If you need someone to interpret in a different language, please notify the court before the hearing by calling (805) 289-8799.

Will my child need a lawyer?

Your child needs a lawyer to represent them in court. If your child does not have a lawyer, or you are unable to afford one, a lawyer will be appointed by the Court. The lawyer may meet



with your child alone to discuss the charges without your presence to preserve confidentiality. When you are called before the Court, the lawyer will announce their appearance on your child's 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 like an adult 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 or the Department of Juvenile Justice, payment of fines and restitution to victims, or placed outside of the home.

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.