

Juvenile Court System

There are many different types of court cases. There are cases about traffic offenses, business deals, crimes, and divorce. Some courts will only hear criminal cases. Some courts will only hear civil cases. The court that hears cases dealing with Indiana youth is called the Juvenile Court System.



1. What is the Indiana Juvenile Court System?

The Indiana Juvenile Court System refers to a court having juvenile jurisdiction. A juvenile is a person age seventeen or younger. The juvenile court will hear cases dealing with Indiana youth age seventeen or younger.

2. What does jurisdiction mean and what cases does the juvenile court judge hear?

If a court has jurisdiction over a case, then that court has the ability to interpret and

apply the law in that case. Since the juvenile court has juvenile jurisdiction, the juvenile judge can hear cases dealing with juveniles, or individuals age seventeen or under. The juvenile court

can hear the following cases dealing with youth:

- Delinquency;
- Child in need of services “CHINS” (abuse and neglect cases);
- Paternity (establishing who a child’s father is);
- Interstate compact (dealing with Indiana youth in other states);
- Parent participation hearings in delinquency and CHINS cases;
- Detention hearings (when youth are removed from the home or arrested);
- Protective orders dealing with people in relation to youth (court orders to keep youth safe);
- Misdemeanor traffic offenses;
- Driving a vehicle while intoxicated;
- Guardianship proceedings for CHINS;
- Cases concerning involuntary drug and alcohol treatment;
- Cases where youth need to be committed to a hospital for mental health needs; and
- Termination of parental rights cases.



Chapter 4 Sources

1. What is the Indiana Juvenile Court System? does the juvenile court judge hear?
I.C. 31-37-23-1; I.C. 31-9-2-70 I.C. 31-30-1-1; I.C. 31-30-1-5
2. What does jurisdiction mean and what cases

