



## FIRST APPEARANCE

At the **first appearance**, charges may be denied or a plea may be entered. The judge will decide whether your child will remain at home throughout this process or be placed in an alternative setting such as detention. That decision will be based upon individual needs and circumstances.

Conditions of release to the parent may include:

- Curfew
- House arrest
- Going to school
- Attending counseling or other treatment services
- Avoiding victims and/or negative peers
- Drug testing

If you have questions, contact your juvenile probation and parole officer or your attorney.



## ADJUDICATION

**Adjudication** is the trial phase of the court process. The judge hears the case and makes a decision about the charges. If you are found guilty, you may enter the **dispositional phase** of the hearing at this time. The judge will schedule a date for the dispositional (sentencing) hearing, or it may take place immediately. If you are found not guilty, the charges will be dismissed.

### Remember ...

- your voice and participation is essential throughout this process. Tell us what you need and what would help.



## DISPOSITION

**Disposition** is the sentencing phase of the process. The judge may order your child to:

- Probation with conditions, based on individual needs and circumstances
  - Assessment and evaluation
  - Counseling such as Functional Family Therapy
  - Community or residential services
  - Restitution (payment for damages)
  - Community service
  - Juvenile Community Corrections

- Incarceration in a state juvenile correctional facility



## The Process

This brochure will help you understand the court process, which begins when the district attorney files a petition of delinquency in your child's case.

When a petition is filed, you will be served with a copy. The petition will tell you what offense(s) your child is charged with.

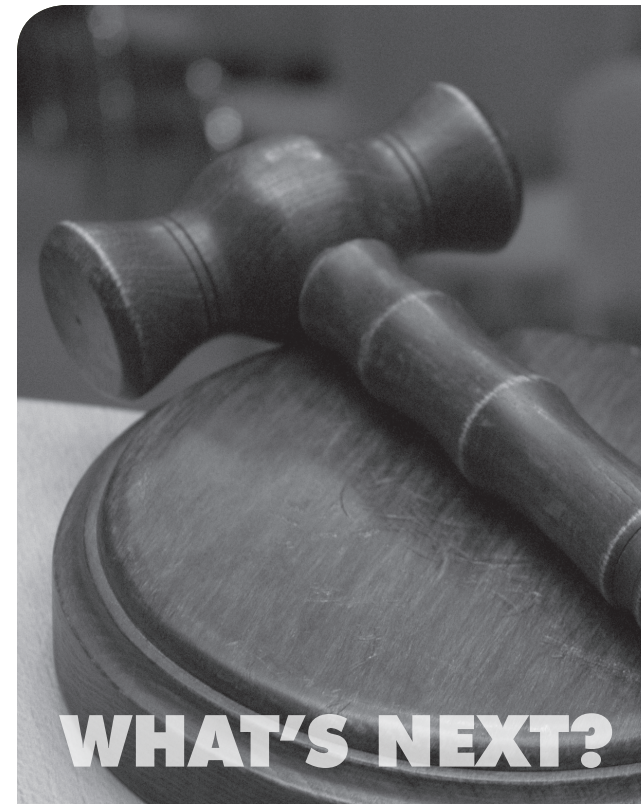
You will be given information about how to get a public defender or a private attorney. It is important to understand that the attorney represents the child and not the parent.

[www.cyfd.org](http://www.cyfd.org)



## Youth and Family Services

For more information, contact:



# WHAT'S NEXT?

A GUIDE TO  
JUVENILE PROBATION AND  
**THE COURT PROCESS**



A publication of the State of New Mexico  
Children, Youth and Families Department