

CHAPTER 8

8.1 Self Check page 270

How were juveniles treated prior to the establishment of juvenile courts?

All offenders, whether juvenile or adult, were handled through the same court system. In many instances, juveniles received the same punishments as adult offenders.

8.2 Self Check page 273

What acts are handled by the juvenile court?

These acts can be broken into two categories: acts of delinquency, which are either acts committed by a juvenile that would be considered a crime if committed by an adult or status offenses; and issues regarding the protection of juveniles, such as child abuse and neglect matters, adoption, termination of parental rights, custody issues, and child support.

8.3 Self Check page 278

What persons work in juvenile court and what are their responsibilities?

The key personnel are the juvenile court judge, juvenile court referee, prosecuting attorney, defense attorney, and probation officer. The **juvenile court judge** can impose sanctions, probation, dismiss charges, and order parents to aid in the rehabilitation of a delinquent youth. The juvenile court referee assists a juvenile court judge in handling the court caseload. The prosecuting attorney's main responsibility is to try juveniles for the offenses with which they are charged; other responsibilities include negotiating plea bargains and initiating waivers to adult court. The defense attorney presents the best possible case on the defendant's behalf during adjudication, negotiates plea bargains, and works to ensure that the juvenile is allowed due process throughout the trial. Finally, the probation officer performs intake screenings, completes predisposition reports, and monitors juveniles on probation.

8.4 Self Check page 284

What decisions are made during intake?

The two major decisions made at intake are (1) the decision to detain the juvenile, and (2) the decision to petition the case.

8.5 Self Check

1. Which of the prosecutor's choices cannot be made by an intake officer?

An intake officer cannot make the decision to waive a juvenile to adult court for prosecution. An officer can, however, make any of the other choices available to a prosecutor. (See Chapter 9 for a detailed discussion of waiver to adult court.)

2. What choices does a prosecutor have in deciding what to do with a case?

The prosecutor's choices are to: (1) dismiss the case, (2) handle the case informally by ordering informal probation, (3) petition the case adjudication, and (4) waive the juvenile to adult court for prosecution.

8.6 Self Check page 288

1. What happens during an arraignment?

At an **arraignment**, a juvenile is made aware of his or her basic rights and asked to enter a guilty or not guilty plea in the case.

2. What occurs during an adjudication hearing?

In an **adjudication hearing**, it is determined whether the juvenile committed the offense for which he or she has been charged.

8.7 Self Check page 291

What founding concept of the juvenile court has eroded in recent years?

The concept of *parens patriae* has eroded, with the concept of a more formalized (and thus adult-like) system rising in its place. With this erosion has come the decrease in the rehabilitative aspects of juvenile justice; these have been replaced by an increased on punishment and deterrence.