

Juvenile Delinquency

The lawyers at Tully Rinckey have experience in representing juveniles in court as well as the parents of the accused child. Juvenile Delinquency is the legal term for behavior that would be judged criminal if the child was an adult. Although there are certain categories of crimes that are more typical with youth, juvenile crimes can range from misdemeanors to serious felony offenses. While these crimes are still subject to legal proceedings, they are handled differently than the same crimes committed by adults. Juvenile courts provide youth with many normal due-process rights but they are not entitled to a jury, nor can they avoid detention by posting bail. They have the right to have their parents and an attorney present before answering questions. The privacy and records of juvenile offenders are confidential. "Youthful offender" status may provide that court records are to be sealed and a youth's record to be erased at age 21. Most juvenile court proceedings are closed to the public and media. Parents of the accused juvenile may be required to pay fines associated with their child's wrongdoing. Although children are expected to work to pay off any debt, parents are ultimately responsible for their fine. Fines may include payment to the court for reimbursement and victim restitution. By U.S. Federal code, all persons under 18 years old are considered minors. However, each state has the authority to decide what age is tried in Juvenile Courts. In New York, Juvenile Courts only have jurisdiction of those under the age of 15. Because of the sensitive nature of Juvenile proceedings, you should have a lawyer experienced with handling juvenile crimes and representing parents of accused children. If you have questions or need help with a legal problem involving a minor, please call Tully Rinckey at: (518) 218-7100 or email juveniledefense@tullylegal.com

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