

Juvenile Justice Glossary

Adjudication: Judicial determination (judgment) that a juvenile is responsible for the delinquency or status offense that is charged in a petition or other charging document.

Adult Jail: A locked facility, administered by State, county or local law enforcement and correctional agencies, designed to detain adults charged with violating criminal law, pending trial. Also, this term refers to facilities used to hold convicted adult criminal offenders sentenced for less than 1 year.

Adult Lockup: Generally, a municipal or police facility similar to an adult jail designed to temporarily hold persons before they have been formally charged.

Aftercare: A cohesive set of support services designed to provide assistance to youth returning to their community and/or new living situation following their release from a secure or non-secure program, residential placement, or treatment program. Services are designed to assist youth in making a successful transition into the community.

Arrest: Hold time in legal custody, either at the scene of a crime or as result of investigations. Arrest also can be the result of a complaint filed by a third party, an outstanding warrant, or a revocation of probation or parole.

Best Practice: Strategies and programs demonstrated through research and evaluation to be effective at preventing or intervening in juvenile justice delinquency. Best practice models include program models that have been shown, through rigorous evaluation and replication, to achieve target outcomes. Model programs can come from many valid sources (e.g., OJJDP's Model Programs Guide, Blueprints, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) Model Programs, State model program resources, etc.)

Case Management: A system of services that include referral, assessment, intervention, problem solving, evaluation, and follow-up.

Community-based: A facility, program, or service located near the juvenile's home or family, usually a group home or other appropriate setting. Also, the term refers to programs of community supervision and services that maintain community and consumer participation in program planning, operation, and evaluation.

Commitment: A court order giving guardianship of a juvenile to the state department of juvenile justice or corrections. The facility in which a juvenile is placed may be publicly or privately operated and may range from a secure correctional placement to a non-secure or staff secure facility, group home, foster care, or day treatment setting.

Compliance: In order to receive its full fiscal year allocation of Formula Grants program funds under the JJDP, a state must first demonstrate compliance with the DSO, jail removal, separation, and DMC core requirements. Compliance with the first three core requirements is demonstrated through data provided in the state's annual Compliance Monitoring Report. Compliance with the DMC Core requirement is determined by information provided in the

state's Comprehensive Three-Year Plan and subsequent Three-Year Plan Updates. Full compliance with each core requirement is achieved when:

Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders: a state has removed 100 percent of status offenders and non-offenders from secure detention correctional facilities.

Jail Removal: a state demonstrates that the last submitted monitoring report, covering 12 months of actual data, demonstrates that no juveniles were held in adult jails or lockups in circumstances that were in violation of jail removal.

OJJDP has developed de minimis standards for states that have not achieved full compliance with the DSO and jail removal requirements. See the OJJDP Guidance Manual for Monitoring Facilities Under the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 2002 for further details.

Separation: a State can demonstrate that (a) the last submitted monitoring report, covering a full 12 months of data, demonstrates that no juveniles were incarcerated in circumstances that were in violation of this requirement; or (b) the instances of noncompliance reported in the last submitted monitoring report do not indicate a pattern or practice but rather constitute isolated instances.

Disproportionate Minority Contact: A state can demonstrate progress made each year in addressing specific delinquency prevention and system improvement efforts to reduce the rate of contact with the juvenile justice system of a specific minority group, if that rate is significantly greater than the rate of contact for whites or other minority groups.

Compliance Monitoring Report: OJJDP's Formula Grant Regulation requires states to submit information regarding compliance with the DSO, jail removal, and separation requirements annually. This information is submitted through the Compliance Monitoring (CM) report. States that have been determined by the OJJDP Administrator to have achieved full compliance may be exempt from the annual monitoring report requirements following a written request.

Delinquency: An act committed by a juvenile that would be criminal if committed by an adult. The juvenile court has jurisdiction over delinquent acts. Delinquent acts include crimes against persons, crimes against property, drug offenses, and crimes against public order.

Detention: The placement of a youth in a secure facility under court authority at some point between the time of referral to court intake and case disposition. Detention prior to case disposition is known as pre-dispositional detention. The reasons for post-dispositional detention generally include awaiting placement, short-term sentencing to detention, or being a danger to self or others.

Discretionary funds: Grants other than the JJJPA Formula Grants that OJJDP makes directly to individuals or agencies to provide specific juvenile services.

Disposition: Sanction ordered or treatment plan decided upon or initiated in a particular case by a juvenile court. The range of options available to a court typically includes commitment

to an institution; placement in a group or foster home or other residential facility; probation (either regular or intensive supervision); referral to an outside agency, day treatment, or mental health program; or imposition of a fine, community service, or restitution.

Diversion: A mechanism designed to hold youth accountable for their actions by sanctioning behavior and in some cases securing services, but at the same time generally avoiding formal court processing in the juvenile justice system.

Formal Petition filed: A case that is being forwarded for judicial resolution and is much smaller in number than the number of cases coming through the intake process.

Formula Grants: The Formula Grants Program, funded by the OJJDP, which provides grant monies to State and territories that support State and local delinquency prevention and intervention efforts and juvenile justice system improvements. Juvenile Justice Specialists in each State administer the funding through sub-grants to units of local government, local private agencies, and Indian tribes for programs in accordance with legislative requirements.

Gender-specific services: Services designed to promote healthy attitudes, behaviors and lifestyles, and promote social competence in girls. Key program elements generally address issues in the context of relationships to peers, family, school, and community.

Goals: Broad statements (i.e., written in general terms) that convey a program's overall intent to change, reduce, or eliminate the problem described. Goals identify the program's intended short-and long-term results.

Graduated Sanctions: A graduated sanctions system is a set of integrated intervention strategies designed to operate in unison to enhance accountability, ensure public safety, and reduce recidivism by preventing future delinquent behavior. The term "graduated sanctions" implies that the penalties for delinquent activity should move from limited interventions to more restrictive (i.e., graduated) penalties according to the severity and nature of the crime. In other words, youth who commit serious and violent offenses should receive more restrictive sentences than youth who commit less serious offenses.

Grants: An award of financial assistance, the principal purpose of which is to transfer a thing of value from a Federal or State agency to a recipient to carry out a public purpose of support or stimulation authorized by a law of the United States (see 31 U.S.C. 6101(3)). A grant is distinguished from a contract, which is used to acquire property or services for the Federal Government's direct benefit or use.

Intake: The point at which a case is sent to the juvenile court for consideration. At this point a case could either be forwarded for formal processing and a hearing by the judge, or it could be sent through less formal channels such as diversion or informal processing.

Juvenile: Youth at or below the upper age of original juvenile court jurisdiction, which varies depending on the State (e.g., the age is 15 in some States, and 17 in others).

Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act: Congress enacted the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP) (P.L. No. 93-415, 42 U.S.C. § 5601 et seq.) in 1974 and reauthorized the majority of its provisions in 2002. The JJDP mandates that states comply with four core requirements to participate in the JJDP's Formula Grants programs. This landmark legislation established OJJDP to support local and state efforts to prevent delinquency and improve the juvenile justice system. **Non-offender:** A juvenile who is subject to the jurisdiction of the juvenile court usually under abuse, dependency, or neglect statutes for reasons other than legally prohibited conduct.

Objectives: Derived from the program goals and explain how the program goal will be accomplished. Objectives are well-defined, specific, quantifiable statements of the program's desired results and they should include the target level of accomplishment, thereby further defining goals and providing the means to measure program performance.

Parole: A conditional release from imprisonment that entitles the person to serve the remainder of the sentence outside the correctional institution as long as the terms of the release are not violated.

Post-disposition: The period following the imposition of a sanction ordered or treatment plan decided upon or initiated in a particular case by a juvenile court.

Pre-disposition: The period after the filing of a charge and prior to a sanction ordered or treatment plan decided upon or initiated in a particular case by juvenile court.

Probation: Cases in which youth are placed on informal/voluntary or formal/court-ordered supervision. A violation occurs when a youth violates the terms of the probation.

Risk Assessment Instrument: Tools that are used in jurisdictions to determine a young person's previous behaviors, in an attempt to determine the likelihood that the person will engage in similar behaviors again in the future. These instruments are administered through an interview with the person during intake or prior to a detention hearing.

Secure: As used to define a detention or correctional facility, this term includes residential and non-residential facilities that include fixtures, such as locked rooms and buildings, fences, or other physical structures, designed to physically restrict the movements and activities of persons in custody. It does not include facilities where physical restriction of movement or activities is provided solely through facility staff.

State Advisory Group: A governor-appointed body that determines what projects will receive federal funds in their home state, and what the system's juvenile justice goals should be. These boards were created under the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act and at least 20 percent of their membership must be youth.

Status Offense: Conduct that would not, under the law of the jurisdiction in which the offense was committed, be a crime if committed by an adult. Status offenses include truancy, curfew violations, incorrigibility, running away, and underage possession and/or consumption of alcohol or tobacco.

Title V: The Title V Community Prevention Grants Program is a federal grants program to fund collaborative, community-based delinquency prevention efforts. The program provides local

communities with funding and a guiding framework for developing and implementing comprehensive juvenile delinquency prevention plans.

Type 1 crimes: Classification used by the FBI, traditionally used as a measure of serious crimes, including murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft, and arson. Also referred to as index crimes.

Valid court order: An order given by a juvenile court judge to a juvenile who was brought before the court and made subject to an order; and who received, before the issuance of such order, the full due process rights guaranteed to such juvenile by the U.S. Constitution.

Valid court order exception: Permits the secure/locked detention of a juvenile for violation of a court order only if he or she received full due process as guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution.

Waived to criminal court: Cases that originated in juvenile court but are transferred to adult criminal court as the result of a judicial waiver hearing in juvenile court.