

**THINK
ABOUT IT
FIRST**



Strategies for Youth

CONNECTING COPS & KIDS®

Things To Know About Your Involvement In The Juvenile Justice System

ONCE YOU'VE BEEN ARRESTED:

- Police have your fingerprints and photo on file.
- You may request that your parents be present before you speak with the police.
- If you are summonsed to Court, there will be a lawyer to assist you at your first appearance.

IF YOU'VE BEEN ADJUDICATED IN JUVENILE COURT:

- Adjudication means the court finds that you committed the offense.
- Adjudication of a more serious juvenile offense may result in a permanent public record.

- Adjudication of a less serious offense might not result in a permanent public record.
- If you have been adjudicated delinquent, do not say you've been "convicted," even if you have served time.

GETTING A JUVENILE RECORD COULD MEAN:

- Losing public housing for yourself AND your family (usually for drugs, violent criminal activity and sex offenses).
- Being excluded from the military.
- Putting your immigration status at risk.
- Never being allowed to own a firearm.

REMEMBER:

- Juveniles are youth under 18.
- Most motor vehicle, fish and game, wildlife, and watercraft "crimes" are tried in Unified Criminal Court where youth may be convicted;

such convictions are always public and can never be sealed.

- Civil violations such as a minor possessing tobacco, fishing without a license, and operating an unregistered ATV are tried in adult court; violations here are adjudications not convictions, but are public and can never be sealed.
- Your record can be sealed from public view, but you must ask for it to be sealed by submitting a petition to the Court and the Court must approve it.
- For information about sealing your record, visit: <http://kidslegal.org/juvenile-adjudications-and-collateral-consequences>

www.strategiesforyouth.org