

**THINK  
ABOUT IT  
FIRST**



**Strategies for Youth**  
CONNECTING COPS & KIDS®



## **IF YOU ARE UNDER 17 & ARRESTED AND/OR DETAINED BY POLICE:**

- Your parents will be notified.
- If you are charged with a felony, police can fingerprint and photograph you.
- You have the right not to answer any questions and to remain silent.
- Once you are in custody (not free to leave), you have the right to an attorney.
- If you can't get your own attorney, the county or state will give you one.
- You may have to appear before a judge.
- You have the right to apply for bail.

## **WHO GOES TO JUVENILE COURT?**

- If you are under 17, your case will likely go to juvenile court.
- If you are under 17, all traffic tickets are handled in juvenile court.
- Depending on the charges in your case, your case in juvenile court may be open to the public.

## **WHO GOES ADULT COURT?**

- If you are 13 and charged with certain serious offenses, your case will start in superior or “adult” court.
- Some cases for youth aged 13-17 may start in adult court and be transferred back to juvenile court.
- If your case is heard in superior or “adult” court, your record is public and can affect how you are treated by other courts in the future.

## **GETTING A JUVENILE COURT RECORD COULD MEAN:**

- Losing public housing.
- Being suspended or expelled from public school.
- Your driver’s license being suspended or revoked for up to a year .
- Being excluded from the military.
- Putting your immigration status at risk.

## KEEP IN MIND:

- If you **are not found delinquent** or you are **not** considered a Child in Need of Services (CHINS), your record should be sealed immediately. ***Check with the court to make sure your record was sealed!***
- If you **are found delinquent** or you **are** considered a CHINS, you can ask a judge to **seal your records 2 years** after you have completed probation or your DJJ commitment. You must submit a request to the juvenile court to seal your records.
- Even if your record is sealed, some people can get an order to access it, such as law enforcement and the courts. A judge may notify you that others have been permitted to see your record.
- Having a record doesn't necessarily keep you from military service, but if you lie about it, the military will find out, and your application may be rejected.

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