

Transfer cases – In Pennsylvania, children who are fourteen years old or older and charged with a felony offense may be transferred from juvenile court to adult criminal court.

Transfer hearings – A hearing before a juvenile court judge to determine whether a child should be transferred to adult court (at the request of the prosecutor). Currently, at least 70% of transfer hearings in PA result in the child being transferred.

JJDPA - Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act. Federal law governing how children should be treated in juvenile justice systems. Most recently updated in 2018 to require that youth under 18 awaiting trial as adults not be held in adult jails.

Diversion - Juvenile diversion programs and approaches hold youth accountable for their behavior without resorting to legal sanctions, court oversight or the threat of confinement. An example is having a school principal, rather than the juvenile justice system, deal with a young person who is truant. Regardless of the form diversion takes, its goal is for young people to mature into adulthood without being thrown off track by [the negative effects of justice system involvement](#), including a criminal record that can seriously damage young people's future opportunities for employment and higher education. Read more here: [What Is Juvenile Diversion? - The Annie E. Casey Foundation \(aecf.org\)](#)

Adjudication – The process by which a juvenile court determines whether or not a child has committed the act with which he/she is charged. Analogous to a trial in criminal court.

Pre-adjudication detention – Term for detaining a child in a locked facility during the time between arrest and an adjudication hearing.

Residential placement (also called out of home placement) – Child is removed from their home and held in custody in a juvenile facility. In Pennsylvania, children may be sent to juvenile facilities in other states.