



COMMON MISCONCEPTIONS

Distinguishing Concepts and Terminology Unique to the Juvenile Justice System

The terms used in the juvenile versus adult system help identify the distinction between the two. The terms are often misused in discussions of the juvenile system procedures. Use of appropriate terms for each system reflects the well-thought-out distinctions between the two systems.

Juvenile System

Focus on treatment

Informal proceedings

Taken into custody/detained

Adult System

Focus on punishment

Formal proceedings

Arrested

Juvenile System

Detention centers

Petition for delinquency

Respondent

Adjudication

Non-adversarial

Closed proceedings

Disposition

Aftercare

Adult System

Jails

Criminal indictment

Defendant

Conviction

Adversarial

Public proceedings

Sentencing

Parole