

Court Information For Parents & Juveniles

Ada County Juvenile Court Services



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WHAT HAPPENS IF FORMAL CHARGES (PETITIONS) ARE FILED?

If formal charges are filed, you and your parent/guardian will be summonsed to appear in Court for an Admit/Deny Hearing. At this hearing, the Judge will explain the charges pending against you and explain your options. You can admit to the charges or deny the charges and request a Public Defender for legal assistance. If you want a lawyer to help you, your case will be scheduled for a Pretrial Conference and Evidentiary Hearing (trial). You and at least one parent/guardian are required to be at the conference and hearing. At Pre-Trial Conference, the Defense lawyer will meet with the Prosecuting Attorney to see if the charges can be resolved. If they cannot be resolved, the case will proceed to an Evidentiary Hearing. This is a trial where witnesses will appear and the Judge will decide whether you are innocent or guilty of the charges. If you want to admit at the Admit/Deny Hearing, the Judge has the option to sentence you during that hearing or to reset sentencing for a later date. If the Judge resets sentencing for a later date, it will be necessary for a Court Investigations Officer to conduct an interview with you and at least one parent/guardian, prior to your sentencing. Questions will be asked about your family, school, friends, etc. This information will then be put into a written report. This report is made available to the Prosecuting Attorney, Defense Attorney and Judge, and will assist the Judge in determining the appropriate sentence for you. If the Judge sentences you at your Admit/Deny Hearing and places you on probation, your case will be transferred to a Field Probation Officer for supervision within seven to ten days. Regardless of how you plead, the Judge will determine if certain conditions should be ordered for you to follow until your next Court date, which could also include detention.

WHAT IS THE COURT INVESTIGATION UNIT?

This unit works with individuals who have received formal charges but are not yet placed on Probation. They conduct the Social History Interview with you and your parents/guardian, as well as assist you in understanding the Court process along the way. They typically will not be involved in your case until you have entered an admission or have been found guilty of your charge(s).

WHAT IS THE COURT RESOURCE OFFICER?

The Court Resource Officer assists the Court during Sentencing Hearings and Admit/Deny Hearings by filling out paperwork, assisting the Court with community resources, and explaining Court orders to you and your parents/guardian. They will also meet with you and your parents/guardian if a sentencing occurs at the Admit/Deny Hearing, to explain the Court order and refer you to any programming or classes you have been ordered to attend.

WHAT KIND OF PROBATION CAN I RECEIVE?

The Judge can place you on probation for a time period not to exceed three years. Two types of probation can be ordered:

INFORMAL ADJUSTMENT- A type of probation where the petition(s) may be dismissed once you successfully complete all probation terms with no additional offenses.

FORMAL PROBATION- A type of probation where your charges will not be dismissed once probation conditions are completed. They will remain on your juvenile record.

WHAT ARE SOME CONDITIONS THE JUDGE CAN ORDER ON MY PROBATION?

The Balanced Approach is the philosophy used at Ada County Juvenile Court Services. The Court desires that the community be protected, that you be held accountable to the victim and community for your actions and that you learn different and more appropriate behaviors. Probation terms vary from juvenile to juvenile and may consist of the following: detention, community service, restitution, apology letter to the victim, urinalysis testing, mediation, payment of fees and participation in programs held at the court or in the community. Parents/Guardian are liable, along with you, to pay all restitution and court fees. Parents/Guardian can also be ordered into counseling and parenting programs if the Judge believes it would be beneficial.

HOW OFTEN AND WHERE DO I MEET WITH MY PROBATION OFFICER?

The number of times you meet with your Probation Officer depends on your risk to the community and your compliance with your probation terms. This could range anywhere from daily to monthly contact. Contacts are often done in the school and in the home. Your case will be assigned to a Probation Officer according to the area in which you live.

WILL MY CASE BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL?

If formal charges have been filed, your file and court hearings are open to the public if you are 14 years of age or older, unless the Judge deems special circumstances exist to keep a certain case closed to the public. All schools are informed twice a year of those juveniles attending their school who have been placed on probation.

HOW CAN I EXPUNGE (SEAL) MY RECORD?

If you have been placed on probation, you can request expungement of your record. Expungement will be considered (unless you committed specific crimes as a juvenile or an act of violence thereafter) under the following conditions: **1.** It's been 5 years since the date of termination of your case from Juvenile Court. **2.** It's been 5 years since you were released from the Juvenile Corrections Center, or **3.** You've reached age 18, whichever comes last. This does not occur automatically and will require a hearing in front of the Court to determine.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

PO (PROBATION OFFICER) An officer who will monitor the juvenile's compliance with probation terms and assist them in completing their terms.

IN-HOME DETENTION An order in which the Judge places a juvenile on increased supervision where movement calls need to be made. The phone calls allow the juvenile to be monitored in the community, as well as meeting regularly with a Community Service Officer.

4TH AMENDMENT WAIVER An order in which the Judge waives a juvenile's 4th amendment rights for search and seizure, random urine screening and breathalyzer testing, or both.

UA'S (URINALYSIS TESTING) A test, which will screen the juvenile's urine for the presence or absence of illegal substances.

COMMUNITY SUPERVISION OFFICER An officer who will monitor your compliance of any release agreement for the Court.

ROR (RELEASE ON OWN RECOGNISANCE) A verbal order in which the Judge may place certain restrictions on a juvenile pending Court proceedings.

DO (DETENTION ORDER) An order signed by the Judge, which authorizes a juvenile to be placed in detention.

CRO (CONDITIONAL RELEASE ORDER) An order in which the Judge places certain restrictions on a juvenile pending Court proceedings. A violation of the release order could result in detainment in detention.

EM (ELECTRONIC MONITORING) An order in which the Judge places a juvenile on increased supervision. The juvenile wears a bracelet and has a monitor hooked up to their phone line, which monitors their movement in the community. You will also be expected to meet regularly with a Community Supervision Officer.

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