The Language of Delinquency Cases in Juvenile Court

The purposes and procedures of the juvenile justice system are different in many respects from those of the adult criminal system. Those differences are reflected in the terminology of the two systems.

Adult Criminal System Terminology	Juvenile Justice Terminology
1. Defendant	Juvenile or Respondent
2. Crime	Delinquent Act
3. Arrest	Take into Custody <i>or</i> Temporary Custody
4. Order for Arrest	Secure Custody Order
5. Warrant or Indictment	Petition
6. Trial	Adjudicatory Hearing
7. Convict (verb)	Adjudicate Delinquent
8. Conviction	Adjudication
9. Guilty Plea	Admission
10. Not Guilty Plea	Denial
11. Plea Transcript	Transcript of Admission
12. Prior Conviction	Prior Adjudication
13. Prior Record Level	Delinquency History Level
14. Sentencing Hearing	Dispositional Hearing
15. Pre-Sentencing Report	Predisposition Report
16. Sentence	Disposition
17. Sentencing Grid	Dispositional Chart
18. Probation Officer	Juvenile Court Counselor
19. Extradition	Proceeding under the Interstate Compact on Juveniles
20. Motion for Appropriate Relief	Motion for Review
21. Jail	Detention Facility
22. Prison	Youth Development Center