Title

Name

Institution

**Specialization in Juvenile Justice System**

If a crime is committed by someone who is under the age of 18, the culprit is called juvenile; such cases are handled differently than the adult offenders. Each state and country has different rules regarding juvenile justice system. So when Mrs. Ingrim’s 16 years ole kid was caught for stealing a car and driving without a license, then she called me and was very worried. I told her not to worry because young offenders are treated quite differently than adult culprits. In the case of young offenders, the emphasis is more on rehabilitation than on punishment. Secondly, juveniles are not convicted of a crime but they are found to be delinquent, and also their records are not made public. That means that for young offenders the laws are not so strict than the adult offenders. Either these offenders are forced to serve the community or sent to rehab centers for recovery, but the plus point is they are neither sent to jail as criminals, nor their records are made public.

There are many steps in the juvenile justice system that needs to be followed for the successful defend of the offender. Within each of these steps, certain stages need to be followed. Most importantly the court system must confirm the fact that all the processes are followed in the given time and the mental state of the young offender must be kept in mind. The first step in case of the juvenile justice system is called intake. That means that when the offender is caught at the crime scene, then the juvenile is handed over to the intake officer. It becomes the duty of the officer to investigate the entire matter and to make sure that enough evidence is available against the offender (“Juvenile offenders and victims: 2014 National report,” n.d.). In case, the intake officer collects enough data then the young culprit should be taken into custody, but if not enough evidence is available, then the intake officer should release him. If evidence is available, then the intake officer has two options either the officer releases him in his parent’s custody or in the other case the juvenile is detained.

The next step is detention, where the juvenile is detained in any of the State’s Regional Youth Detention Center. There are some instances, where a juvenile who is convicted of any adult crime are kept in adult jail, and also they are summoned by the adult court. If the juvenile is detained, then the hearing will be done within 72 hours of detention. In the hearing as well the judge can either dismiss the case, have an informal adjustment or lastly a formal hearing will be carried. Informal adjustments are done at the first attempt only, when the juvenile accepts the offend then under the court supervision the juvenile is either required to attend school regularly, be regular in counseling sessions or the he is liable to complete a community service (“Flowchart of the Juvenile Court Process –,” n.d.). A formal hearing is made if the offend is serious or the offender is a continuous wrongdoer. In this case, a witness, files a petition that describes the seriousness of the offend. After the petition is filed, then a date is fixed for the formal hearing. Summon is issued to inform the offender, parents or any family member to join the hearing. Then comes the adjudicatory hearing which is more like adult hearing. Here the judge hears both the young offender’s case and the evidence against him and then decides if he is guilty or not if he is not found guilty then he is released; otherwise, a second hearing is arranged (“Steps in the juvenile justice process Flashcards | Quizlet,” n.d.).

Then comes the dispositional hearing where punishment is determined for the young offender. Here both the persecutor and defense call for evidence and try to influence the judge. Then comes the most important step called sentencing where the judge has to choose among many options. Either the juvenile is released in his parents’ custody or he is placed in probation. The juvenile is also sent to special camps or have to attend counseling sessions. The last step is appeal or extension against the ruling. The juvenile has every right to appeal their case. If the appeal is accepted, then he is released without any delay, and in case it is lost then the sentence is carried out. In case the juvenile is not reformed then the court can extend the custody up to five years (“Flowchart of the Juvenile Court Process –,” n.d.). So in the case of Mrs. Ingrim’ child, the situation is supposed to be handled very carefully. First I will talk to the intake officer to know the intensity of the situation and whether the juvenile was indeed on the crime scene and also I will look at the evidence whether they are authentic or not. If the evidence is against the juvenile and he is detained, I will make sure to file a petition for his release, and if the court decides to reject the petition, then I will try to influence the judge to give the custody of the kid to his parents.

The juvenile justice is different from adult crime system in the sense that the juvenile justice system it focuses more on rehabilitation and also it offers more sentencing options than the adult criminal system. Juveniles are convicted for delinquent acts rather than crimes unless the crime is serious. Juveniles are not liable to public trial by a jury, where a judge hears the case and decides whether he commits the act or not. If he is convicted to the action then instead of sending him to jail, he is sent to rehab centers. While in case of adult criminal system a hearing proceeds and if the criminal is convicted then he is sent to jail. The courts for juveniles are more informal than the adult courts, and also the rules are more flexible. The juvenile’s offenders are handled differently than the adults. They are not sent to jails and are not kept with criminals, rather they are kept in rehabilitation centers with their age fellows, and proper counseling is given to these young people (“Difference Between Juvenile And Adult Justice Systems,” n.d.).

If I was a judge, then I would handle this case more carefully and sensibly. Knowing the fact that the offender is not someone above 30 years but an immature kid so it is quite understandable that whatever he did he did it out of immaturity and whatever ruling I would give that would affect the kid for the rest of his life. So while hearing the case, I would make him comfortable with me by creating a friendly atmosphere, and while giving my ruling, I would make sure to give a decision that would be best for the kid in the long run. Either I would send him to a rehabilitation center and would arrange proper sessions for him or indulge him in community services to inculcate positivity and humanity in him because his mind is quite fragile and it is easy to shape them in a positive way.

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