

400.00 - JUVENILE PROCEDURES

401.00 Introduction

- (1) The procedures established by the Denver Police Department for handling persons who have not reached their eighteenth (18) birthdays are influenced by the Colorado Revised Statutes and the policies of the Denver Juvenile Court.
- (2) A "delinquent child" is defined as any child under eighteen (18) years of age who has violated any state law or municipal ordinance, other than state traffic or game and fish laws or regulations or municipal traffic ordinances, regardless of where the violation occurred.
- (3) Juveniles may be taken into custody (ordered-in or incarcerated) for felonies, misdemeanors and ordinance violations upon probable cause. The Children's Code states that a juvenile may be taken into custody "when there are reasonable grounds to believe that an act has been committed that would be a felony, misdemeanor or municipal ordinance violation if committed by an adult". A Juvenile Arrest must meet the same level of probable cause as would be required in an adult arrest. This probable cause must be articulated in all the reports relating to the arrest.
- (4) The Juvenile Summons and Complaint is used to order a juvenile offender directly into County Court for violations of city ordinances. County Court has limited sentencing and penalty powers, and is only meant to handle minor criminal offenses. Per Denver City Charter Section 34-17, the county court can fine a minor up to \$999.00 per offense, place the juvenile on probation or order the minor to attend a counseling program approved by the court.
- (5) The Juvenile Intake Desk is designed to facilitate the processing and placement of juveniles taken into police custody. On a case-by-case basis, officers are encouraged to use their discretion and best judgment in deciding what action is to be taken in dealing with juveniles and to take into consideration what would best serve the needs of all concerned parties.
 - * Lecture and release to parents
 - * Order-in to concerned investigative unit
 - * Order-in to Juvenile Court (191J) for minor city ordinance violations
 - * Arrest for misdemeanor and felony offenses

