

Dispositional Alternatives in Delinquency Cases

We understand that an adjudicatory hearing has been scheduled for the child, _____, to either admit or deny the allegations contained in a petition which has been provided to the child and to the child's parent, guardian or custodian. We further understand that the dispositional alternatives listed below will be considered by the judge if the child admits the allegations or if a trial is held and the judge concludes that the child committed the act or acts listed in the petition.

1. Release the child without further action.
2. Place the child in the custody of the parents, a relative or other persons subject to any conditions and limitations, including restitution, as the youth court may prescribe.
3. Place the child on probation subject to any reasonable and appropriate conditions and limitations, including restitution, as the youth court may prescribe.
4. Order terms of treatment calculated to assist the child and the child's parents or guardian which are within the ability of the parent or guardian to perform.
5. Order terms of supervision which may include participation in a constructive program of service or education or civil fines not in excess of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00), or restitution not in excess of actual damages caused by the child to be paid out of his own assets or by performance of services acceptable to the victims and approved by the youth court and reasonably capable of performance within one (1) year.
6. Suspend the child's driver's license by taking and keeping it in custody of the court for not more than one (1) year.
7. Give legal custody of the child to any of the following:
 - (a) The Department of Human Services for appropriate placement; or
 - (b) Any public or private organization, preferably community-based, able to assume the education, care and maintenance of the child, which has been found suitable by the court; or
 - (c) The Division of Youth Services for placement in a state-supported training school, except that no child under the age of ten (10) years shall be committed to a state training school, and no first-time nonviolent youth offenders shall be committed to a state training school until all other options provided for in this section have been considered and the court makes a specific finding of fact that commitment is appropriate.
8. Recommend to, but not order, the child and the child's parents or guardian that the child attend and participate in the Youth Challenge Program under the Mississippi National Guard.
9. Adjudicate the juvenile to the Statewide Juvenile Work Program if the program is established in the court's jurisdiction.
10. Order the child to participate in a youth court work program.
11. Order the child into a juvenile detention center operated by the county or into a juvenile detention center operated by any county with which the county in which the court is located has entered into a contract for the purpose of housing delinquents. The time period for detention cannot exceed ninety (90) days. The youth court judge may order that the number of days specified in the detention order be served either throughout the week or on weekends only. No first-time nonviolent youth offender shall be committed to a detention center for a period of ninety (90) days until all other options provided for in this section have been considered.
12. The judge may consider house arrest in an intensive supervision program as a reasonable prospect of rehabilitation within the juvenile justice system.
13. Referral to A-team provided system of care services.
14. If the child is adjudicated delinquent for an offense under Section 63-11-30 (Implied Consent - DUI), enter an order denying the driver's license and driving privileges of the child.
15. If the youth court places a child in a state-supported training school, the court may order the parents or guardians of the child and other persons living in the child's household to receive counseling and parenting classes for rehabilitative purposes while the child is in the legal custody of the training school.
16. The youth court may require drug testing. If a child tests positive, the court may require treatment, counseling and random testing, as it deems appropriate. The costs of such tests shall be paid by the parent, guardian or custodian of the child unless the court specifically finds that the parent, guardian or custodian is unable to pay.
17. If the child has willfully or maliciously caused personal injury or damaged or destroyed property and damages or restitution does not exceed the actual loss to the victim, (a) the court may order the child's parents, guardians or custodians to pay damages or restitution through the court to the victim; (b) such restitution shall not preclude recovery of damages by the victim from such child or parent, guardian or custodian or other person who would otherwise be liable; and (c) this order shall constitute a civil judgment and may be enrolled on the judgment rolls in the office of the County Circuit Clerk.

We acknowledge that the judge has given us the opportunity to ask questions about the dispositional alternative listed above and we understand (a) the purpose of the adjudicatory hearing and the possible dispositional alternatives thereof; (b) the right to counsel; (c) the right to remain silent; (d) the right to subpoena witnesses; (e) the right to cross-examine witnesses; and (f) the right to appeal.

Date

Child's signature

Signature of parent, guardian or custodian

Signature of parent, guardian or custodian