

## STANDARDS GOVERNING JUVENILE COURT JURISDICTIONAL PROCEDURES

*Jurisdiction can be defined as the power of the Court over the person and subject matter before it, and the consequent authority to hold a hearing and render an adjudication.*

### Establishing Jurisdiction

- I. **Juvenile Court intake, upon receipt of an allegation of delinquency or dependency shall, before taking any action on the referral, determine if the Juvenile Court has jurisdiction over the matter.**

*This determination shall be based on strict adherence to The Juvenile Act through each Court's adoption of the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission Standards for the Administration of Juvenile Court Intake.*

- II. **Once Juvenile Court jurisdiction over a matter has been established, Juvenile Court intake shall make a thorough evaluation of the case prior to making any recommendations or decisions concerning the various procedural and dispositional alternatives available to the Juvenile Court.**

*These decisions must be based on explicitly stated goals which have been reduced to writing as guidelines that set forth the criteria to be considered by the probation officer during case evaluation.*

### Venue

- III. **A proceeding can be commenced in the county in which the child resides or in the county in which the acts constituting the alleged delinquency occurred. When a child is alleged to be delinquent in other than his/her county of residence, procedures should be consistent with the Standards Governing the Inter-county Transfer of Delinquency Cases. •**

### Non-compliance with a Sentence Imposed in a Summary Proceeding

- IV. **Upon certification of a district justice or judge of the minor judiciary to the juvenile court that a child has failed to comply with a lawful sentence imposed following a finding of guilt in a summary proceeding, the Juvenile Court shall process that referral as it would any other delinquency allegation. If after an adjudication hearing, the Juvenile Court determines that there is proof beyond a reasonable doubt that the child has failed to comply with such a sentence and the juvenile is found to be a delinquent child, the Court may make any disposition determined to be consistent with the public interest and best suited to the child's treatment, supervision, rehabilitation, and welfare.**

*The collection of the fines and costs levied by the minor judiciary is but one possible disposition available to the Court.*

## Termination of Jurisdiction

- V. The Juvenile Court, through probation services, must evaluate the progress of those juveniles under its supervision on a continuing basis. The termination of Court supervision and jurisdiction shall be effected after giving consideration to the child's progress in achieving goals established with regard to protecting the community, holding the child accountable for acts committed and the development by the child of competencies.**

*An accurate determination of a juvenile's progress while under Court jurisdiction can be made only if case goals and an accompanying treatment plan are established at the outset of supervision.*

## Effect of Jurisdiction

- VI. The Court shall ensure that an adjudication of delinquency and any resulting disposition impose no civil disability upon the child subject to those proceedings. The Court shall notify the child and parents that a Juvenile Court disposition will not disqualify him from any civil service employment opportunity, and that the disposition may not be used against him in any proceeding in any Court other than at a subsequent juvenile hearing, in a dispositional proceeding after conviction for the purpose of a pre-sentence investigation and report, where the child has put his reputation or character in issue in a civil matter, or in a criminal proceeding, if the child was adjudicated delinquent for an offense, the evidence of which would be admissible if committed by an adult.**