

## GETTING ARRESTED—APPLICATIONS

### TRUE OR FALSE QUIZ: Juvenile Offenders

When a juvenile is accused of a crime, society and the law treats him or her differently than an adult offender would be handled in the normal court system. The following series of true and false questions and answers provide an overview of just how differently juvenile offenders are treated.

**Q:** Juvenile offenders have their own special courts.

**A:** True. Juveniles who are not being tried as adults are instead tried in juvenile courts. These courts have their own set of rules and procedures that must be followed.

**Q:** A juvenile offender can be treated as and tried as an adult.

**A:** True. A juvenile offender can be tried as an adult in certain situations, such as where their age, the severity of their crime, or their criminal history warrants such treatment.

**Q:** Juvenile offenders are not booked for their crimes.

**A:** False. A juvenile offender who has been arrested will be taken into custody and will be booked at a police station. The process of booking includes having their name and the reason for their arrest recorded in a log book. The juvenile offender will also have his or her picture and fingerprints taken.

**Q:** Juvenile offenders can not be held in jail prior to entering a plea.

**A:** False. Not all juvenile offenders will be held in jail before their arraignment, which is the court appearance where the charges against them will be read and their pleas will be entered. However, if the alleged crime is of a serious nature, the juvenile offender may be held in jail until arraignment.

**Q:** Juvenile offenders may not necessarily be charged with the crime that they committed.

**A:** True. In most situations, a juvenile offender will merely be charged with being a delinquent or of engaging in delinquent behavior, instead of being charged with the actual crime.

**Q:** A juvenile court proceeding is less formal than an “adult” criminal trial.

**A:** True. Juvenile court proceedings are more relaxed, in many ways, than a regular criminal trial.

**Q:** A juvenile offender does not have the right to an attorney.

**A:** False. A juvenile offender has the right to an attorney. Juveniles also has a right to know what crime they are being accused of. They have the right to remain silent. They have a right to confront and cross-examine their accusers. Most importantly, as with adults who are accused of crimes, juvenile offenders have the right to be treated as innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

**Q:** Juvenile offenders can waive their right to an attorney without the consent of their parents.

**A:** False. A juvenile cannot waive his or her right to an attorney without parental approval.

**Q:** A juvenile offender has the right to a trial by jury.

**A:** False. A juvenile offender does not have the right to a jury trial.

**Q:** All juvenile court records are always sealed from public inspection.

**A:** False. Whether a juvenile record is sealed lies within the discretion of the trial judge.

**Q:** All juvenile offenders are given probation, rather than being placed in a locked facility.

**A:** False. Some juvenile offenders may be given probation. Others, depending upon the severity of their crimes and their arrest records, may be sentenced to a juvenile retention facility or juvenile workhouse.