Commonly Used Words and Acronyms

* **Adjudication:**The juvenile equivalent of an adult conviction. It is a finding of guilt by the court.
* **Advisement:** A court procedure formally advising the accused of certain statutory and constitutional rights. The advisement is delivered during the first appearance in court.
* **Advisement of Rights:** 1.) A court procedure formally advising a person of certain statutory and constitutional rights. Such advisement must be given at the first appearance in court. 2.) A set of warnings which must be given to a person upon arrest.
* **Allege:** To assert to be true without proving.
* **Appearance:** The formal proceeding by which an offender presents him or herself to the jurisdiction of the court.
* **Bond:** A type of security required by the court before an offender is released from custody. An accused may be released on his or her own promise (personal recognizance), by having a licensed bondsman post an agreement to pay a certain amount (bond) by personally depositing money in cash (bail), or by encumbering property (property bond). The court may allow the amount of bail posted in cash to be a percentage of the total amount of bail set; however, in the event of default, the entire amount of bail set is forfeited and becomes due to the state.
* **Bond Condition Violations:** This is a violation of conditions that the youth must carry out before the adjudication hearing.
* **Bond, Personal Recognizance (PR Bond):** An obligation of record entered into before a court requiring the performance of an act such as appearing in court as instructed or penalty of money forfeiture.
* **Charge:** The charge is the specific offense the youth is accused of committing.
* **Colorado Children’s Code:** Title 19, Colorado revised statute. This code sets forth the definitions, jurisdiction, procedures, and powers in juvenile cases.
* **Crime against Persons:** This includes any felony or misdemeanor crime directly committed against a person. These include manslaughter, murder, vehicular homicide, criminally, negligent homicide, assaults, menacing, criminal extortion, reckless endangerment, kidnapping, enticement, and unlawful sexual behavior.
* **Crime of Violence:** If a youth commits a crime of violence, he or she usually goes to a secure detention. Crimes of violence include: any crime against an at-risk adult or at-risk juvenile, murder, first or second degree assault, kidnapping, sexual assault, aggravated robbery, first degree arson, first degree burglary, escape, and criminal extortion. This may also include felony unlawful sexual offenses.
* **Deferred Disposition/Prosecution, Deferred Sentence:** Some defendants are granted a deferred prosecution, which means that the judge and district attorney (DA) permit the accused person to delay going to trial for a period of time, usually one year. During this period, the accused is supervised by a probation officer, if the person complies with all the requirements of the deferred prosecution, the charges may be dismissed. A defendant who pleads guilty to a crime may be given a deferred sentence, which means the judge does not impose a sentence immediately but continues the case up to two years, placing the defendant under the Probation Department’s supervision. If the defendant complies with all the requirements, the charges against him will be dropped.
* **Delinquent/Delinquent Juvenile:** A child ten (10) years of age or older, who violates any federal or state law, except State Traffic and Game and Fish Law, or any lawful order of the court made under the Colorado Children’s Code. This is the common term for a youth who commits an illegal offense.
* **Detention:** Placing the child in a facility designed for minors. This is a secure facility designed to be a non-punitive facility and located as close to the minor’s home as possible.
* **Detention Hearing:** A judicial hearing held within forty-eight (48) hours (excluding weekends and court holidays) after a child is taken into Temporary Custody to determine whether continued detention is necessary.
* **Dispositional Hearing:** A judicial hearing at which time information is presented and reviewed along with recommendations for disposition. The conclusion is the court’s official disposition order.
* **District Attorney (DA):** A lawyer elected of appointed in a specific district to serve as the chief or administrative prosecutor for the State in criminal cases.
* **Diversion:** A decision is made by a person with authority or a delegate of that person that results in specific official action of the legal system not being taken in regard to a specific juvenile or child and in lieu thereof providing individually designed services by a specific program. The goal of diversion is to prevent further involvement of the juvenile or child in the formal legal system. Diversion of a juvenile or child may take place either at the pre-filing level as an alternative to the probation services following an adjudicatory hearing pursuant to section 19-2-907. “Services”, as used in this subsection (44), includes but is not limited to diagnostic needs assessment, restitution programs, community services, job training and placement, specialized tutoring, constructive recreational activities, general counseling and counseling during a crisis situation, and follow-up activities.
* **DYS (Department of Youth Services) Commitment:** When a youth is committed to DYS, this means legal custody for the youth is transferred to DYS. DYS commitment occurs when a judge or magistrate sentences a youth for charges of delinquent acts.
* **Electronic Home Monitoring:** This may be a condition under which the youth is released from custody. Electronic home monitoring means that the youth is required to be within a certain area and wear an electronic ankle bracelet that keeps track of whether the youth goes outside of that area (see Release with Services).
* **Expungment:** The legal process whereby a child’s juvenile court record can be sealed.
* **Failure to Appear (FTA):** FTA is a legal status that means the youth did not appear at a scheduled court hearing.
* **Felony:** A felony is serious crime, regarded by the law as grave, and more serious than a misdemeanor. Felonies are punishable by a maximum of two (2) years commitment to the Division of Youth Services (DYS).
* **Guardian Ad Litem (GAL):** A person appointed by a court to look after the interests of a child in litigation.
* **Guardianship:** The duty and authority vested in a person or agency buy court action to make major decisions affecting a child, which may include: consent of marriage, military enlistment, medical or surgical treatment, adoption when parental rights have been terminated, or representation of a child in legal actions.
* **Jurisdiction:** The legal Power to hear and decide cases; the territorial limits of such power.
* **Magistrate**: a civil officer or lay judge who administers the law, especially one who conducts a court that deals with minor offenses and holds preliminary hearings for more serious ones.
* **Misdemeanor:** A misdemeanor is a crime less serious than a felony. Minor theft (of articles worth less than a certain amount), first-time drunk driving and leaving the scene of an accident are all common misdemeanors. Misdemeanors are punishable by a maximum of two (2) years commitment to the Division of Youth Services (DYS).
* **Municipal Court:** Courts whose territorial authority is confined to the city or community.
* **Personal Recognizance (PR):** Security for the appearance of a criminal defendant, in the form of a personal promise without posting any bail or filing a formal bond.
* **Petition:** A formal application in writing made to the Court, requesting judicial action concerning some matter therein set forth.
* **Placement:** A placement is a residence in which the child has been formally placed. Examples include foster care and Therapeutic Residential Child Care Facilities (TRCCF).
* **Plea:** The defendant’s formal response to criminal charges. If a defendant stands mute, the judge will enter a plea of not guilty for the defendant. Examples are: guilty, not guilty, nolo contendere, not guilty by reason of insanity.
* **Probation Violation:** A probation violation occurs when the youth does not comply with what he or she is required to do according to his or her probation agreement. Example of probation violations include: new offenses while on probation, not reporting to a probation officer, not paying restitution, and failing to complete useful public services.
* **Probation:** A sentence alternative to incarceration, whereby an adjudicated juvenile may be released under certain conditions and under the supervision of a probation officer for a specific time. In some cases, a short detention sentence is combined with the probation.
* **Public Defender:** An attorney, system of attorney’s, funded by the state, for Juveniles and families that qualify.
* **Release Conditions:** This occurs when the youth is awaiting court appearances and includes conditions such as: pretrial supervision, home detention, pending detention hearing, promise to appear, and electronic home monitoring.
* **Release to Parent or Guardian:** This occurs when the youth who has been taken into temporary custody is released into the care and supervision of a parent or other responsible adult.
* **Release with Services:** This occurs when the court decides that a youth may be released from custody on certain conditions, such as electronic home monitoring and periodic reporting.
* **Revocation:** A court order rescinding or withdrawing a previous court order. When a person on probation has violated one or more of the terms and conditions of probation, a petition to revoke probation or modify the terms and conditions may be filed with the court. If the allegations are proven, the judge may modify the terms of probation or revoke probation and exercise any of the dispositional alternatives, including commitment to the Division of Youth Corrections.
* **Risk Assessment:** A tool to assist in predicting continued criminal activity. The primary factors considered are; criminal history, stability, substance abuse and employment.
* **Runaway:** This refers to when the youth unjustifiably leaves his or her designated living setting, usually overnight, one or more times. If the youth left those settings because of justifiable reasons (for example: if he or she is in danger), the instance should not be considered runaway.
* **Screener:** This refers to the person appointed by the judge or court to recommend whether a juvenile who is in temporary custody should be released or admitted to a detention or shelter facility.
* **Self-Harm:** Self-harm means putting oneself at risk of injury or death. Examples would include cutting behavior, running from placements, and severe substance abuse.
* **Summons:** A notice requiring a person to appear in court on a specific day at a specific time. The summons is returned to the court to reflect that the person was served with it.
* **Threats to Harm:** These include verbalization and gestures that would alert any reasonable person to the possibility of being harmed.
* **Warrant:** A warrant is a written order issued by a judicial official authorizing an officer to perform a specified act required for the administration of justice.
* **BA** – Breath Analysis
* **CJRA** – Colorado Juvenile Risk Assessment
* **CRS** – Colorado Revised Statutes
* **DA** – District Attorney
* **DHS** – Department of Human Services
* **D & N** – Dependency and Neglect
* **DOC** – Department of Corrections
* **DV** – Domestic Violence
* **DYS** – Department of Youth Services
* **DUI** – Driving Under the Influence
* **DWIA** – Driving With Impaired Ability
* **EHM** – Electronic Home Monitoring
* **ER** – Emergency Release
* **FAPT**– Family Assessment and Planning Team
* **FFT** – Family Functional Therapy
* **FP** – Family Partnerships Unit
* **FSRT** – Family Safety and Resource Team Meeting
* **FTA** – Failure to Appear
* **HRV** – High Risk Victim
* **IEP** – Individualized Education Plan
* **IGA** – Intergovernmental Agreement
* **ISP** – Intensive Supervision Probation
* **JDSAG** – (State of Colorado) Juvenile Detention Screening and Assessment Guide
* **JIS** – Juvenile Information Sharing
* **JISP** – Juvenile Intensive Supervision Probation
* **JSPC** – Juvenile Services Planning Commission
* **MAYSI** – Massachusetts Youth Screening Instrument
* **MH** – Mental Health
* **MIP** – Minor In Possession
* **MST** – Multi-Systemic Therapy
* **MVT** – Motor Vehicle Theft
* **OJJDP** – Office of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention
* **PC** – Probable Cause
* **PCS** – Possession of a Controlled Substance
* **PO** – Probation/Parole Officer
* **P&P** – Policy and Procedure
* **PSI** – Pre-Sentence Investigation
* **RFI** – Request for Information
* **ROI** – Release of Information
* **RTC** – Residential Treatment Center
* **SA** – Sexual Assault
* **SO** – Sex Offender
* **SOMB** – Sex Offender Management Board
* **SRO** – School Resource Officer
* **SUS** – Substance Use Survey
* **TANF** – Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
* **TPR** – Termination of Parental Rights
* **UA** – Urine Analysis

Adapted from the *2018 Jefferson County Juvenile Assessment Center* website