

## **JUVENILE DELINQUENCY PROSECUTION**

The Prosecutor represents the state's interest in prosecuting those youths under the age of 17 who have violated the law. The focus of juvenile court as mandated by the State of Michigan is to provide the youth with rehabilitation, services and intervention to prevent career criminals. The juvenile system is not meant to be isolative or punishing in nature unless all other avenues have been explored.

The prosecutor's office does not become involved in the case until after a criminal investigation is completed by the police and the police have brought the warrant into the prosecutor's office. A warrant may be denied, it may be left open for further investigation or it may be authorized.

If the warrant is authorized, a preliminary inquiry is scheduled before the referee of juvenile court to allow the juvenile an opportunity to be arraigned on the charges and enter a plea or diversion program. If the juvenile does not plea or take a diversion program, the case will be scheduled for a Pre-trial before the Judge in juvenile court to be provided an opportunity to meet the prosecutor and discuss the potential for a plea. If the juvenile does not take a plea, than the case is set for trial.

In certain cases, a youth may be charged as an adult and/or sentenced as an adult when a serious felony has been committed.

In juvenile court a disposition hearing, similar to an adult sentencing is then held, wherein the Judge may order the following:

- Warn the juvenile and terminate the court's jurisdiction;
- Place the juvenile on in-home probation with a parent, relative or guardian;
- Place the juvenile in foster care;
- Require the juvenile to perform community service;
- Send the juvenile to a rehabilitation center;
- Order health care for the juvenile;
- Order participation in programs that will assist the juvenile;
- Place the juvenile in boot camp;
- Order the parents to receive treatment or classes;
- Order a probationary period;
- Order the juvenile and his/her parents to pay restitution to the victim(s) when applicable;
- Order the payment of a crime victim rights assessment fee and reimbursement of court expenses and court-appointed attorney fees.