

SIMPLIFIED INDEX TO THE NEBRASKA JUVENILE CODE

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INTRODUCTION AND ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

This appendix contains a simplified index to the Nebraska Juvenile Code. This appendix also contains a glossary of some commonly-used legal terms that are often used in the code (and in this index).

The Nebraska Juvenile Code is found in sections 43-245 to 43-2,129 of the Nebraska Revised Statutes. These statutes are available on the Nebraska Legislature's website at the following [link](#).¹

There is also a larger and more comprehensive index to all of Nebraska's statutes. It is contained in two print volumes and can also be found at the following links: [Vol. 1](#) (A to H)² [Vol. 2](#) (I to Z)³.

If you have further questions about the Nebraska Juvenile Code and related issues, there are guides and resources

¹ <https://bit.ly/nebjcode>

² <https://bit.ly/nebindex1>

³ <https://bit.ly/nebindex2>

available on the Nebraska Supreme Court's website. These include:

- The *Court Improvement Project* – A website with many resources ([link](#))⁴
- *What Now? A Guide for Young People in Nebraska's Juvenile Court System* – While this publication is written for juveniles, it provides a very helpful overview of the law and procedures in this area. This publication comes in two different versions.
 - Child welfare version ([link](#))⁵
 - Juvenile justice version ([link](#))⁶

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GLOSSARY OF SELECTED JUVENILE LAW TERMS

Adjudication – This word is used in two ways: (1) To refer to a court proceeding, like a trial, and (2) to refer to the overall process through which the judge decides the juvenile case.

- Through the adjudication of a juvenile case, the judge will decide whether the facts alleged in the petition are true. For example, in a delinquency case, the judge will determine if the juvenile has committed an act that would be a crime if committed by an adult.
- Juvenile cases are often referred to as proceeding in certain parts or phases: Preadjudication, adjudication, and disposition.

⁴ <https://bit.ly/4cHcAN2>

⁵ <https://bit.ly/3Z6yfed>

⁶ <https://bit.ly/3AHuIZH>

Delinquency case – When a person under the age of 18 commits an act that is a crime, they can be brought before the juvenile court. This type of juvenile court case is sometimes referred to as a "delinquency" case.

- The term "delinquency" is not used formally in the statutes. Instead, this phrase is used by people when talking about juvenile court cases.
- A person under the age of 18 can also sometimes be charged as an adult. When this happens, the person can request the court to transfer the case to juvenile court. (The opposite can also happen—a case can be initially filed in juvenile court and then transferred to adult court.)

Disposition – This is similar to sentencing in the adult criminal context or a judgment in a civil case. In the dispositional phase of a juvenile case, the court decides what services or rehabilitative efforts a juvenile will receive.

- There are many possible disposition options. Some of these include ordering participation in outpatient treatment or services, ordering payment of restitution, placement in a group or foster home, probation, or commitment to certain institutions, such as a youth rehabilitation and treatment center (often referred to as a "YRTC").

Guardian ad litem (GAL) – An attorney appointed by the judge to act on behalf of a person (here, typically a juvenile) and to protect that person's interests.

Juvenile – In Nebraska law, "juvenile" means a person who is under the age of 18.

- However, the age of majority in Nebraska (with some exceptions) is 19. In some cases, this means the court will retain jurisdiction over a juvenile until they are 19.

Jurisdiction – Generally this means the power or authority of a court to hear and decide a case.

- A juvenile can be within the jurisdiction of a juvenile court due to delinquency, a status offense, or an abuse or neglect (child welfare) case.
- Parents, guardians, and custodians of a juvenile can also be within the court's jurisdiction.
- In some delinquency cases, both adult court (county court or district court) and the juvenile court may have "concurrent" (shared) jurisdiction over a juvenile.
- The term "jurisdiction" can also refer to the geographical limits of a court's authority.

Petition – Like a complaint or indictment in a criminal case, this is the document filed by the county attorney (or city attorney) that alleges why the juvenile is being brought to court.

Status offense / status case – A juvenile may be brought to court for conduct that would not be a crime if the juvenile was an adult.

- For example, this includes not going to school, running away from home, or being uncontrollable by parents.

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