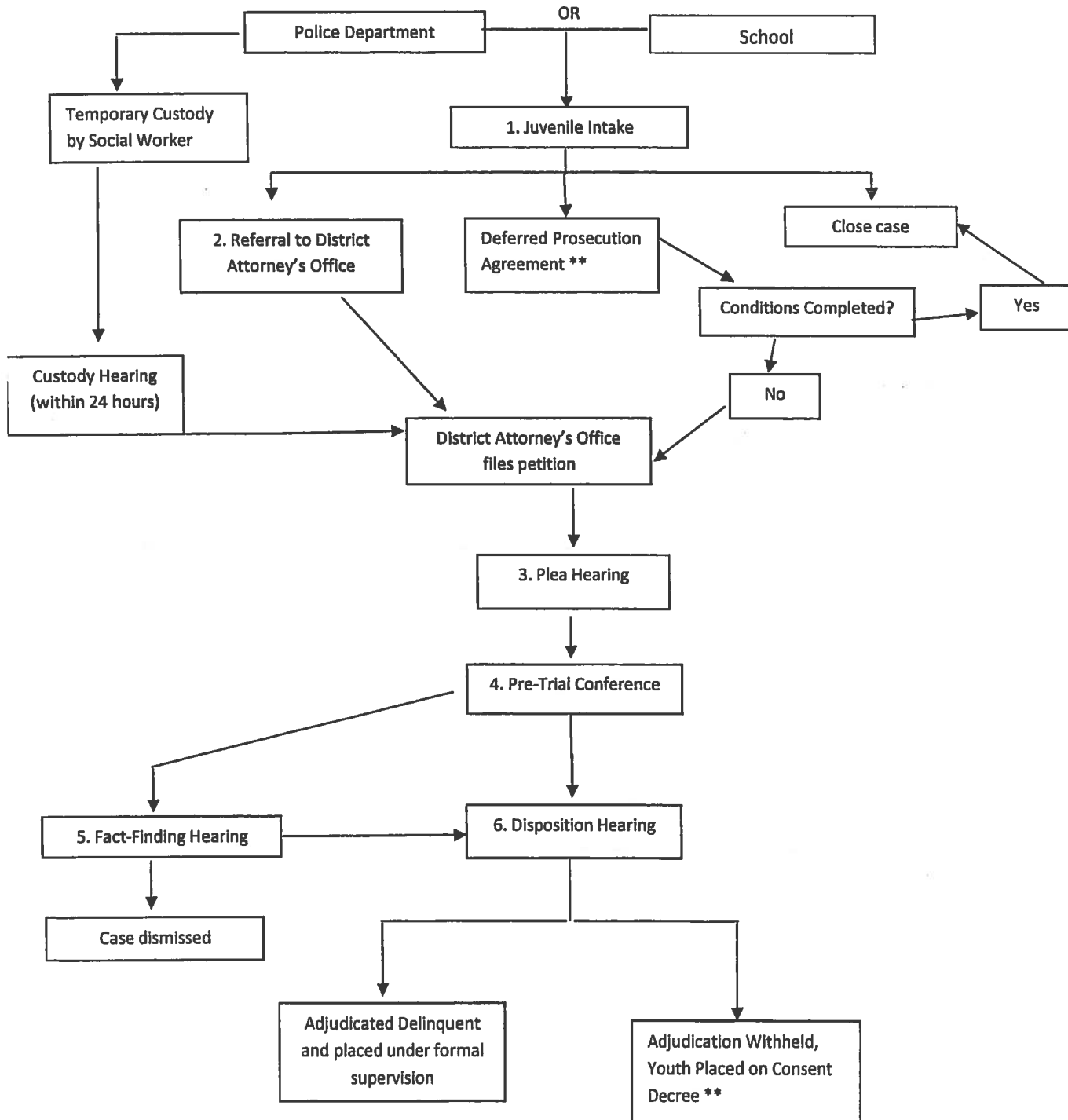


Juvenile Court Proceedings

This flowchart is a *simplified* version of how a referral would normally make its way through the juvenile court system. It does not include information regarding out of home placement, waivers, correctional orders, extensions or revisions. More specific questions should be directed to your social worker.

****Deferred Prosecution Agreements and Consent Decrees are forms of informal supervision that can be terminated if conditions are not successfully completed. The result of a termination is often an adjudication with formal supervision.**



DEFINITIONS

1. **Juvenile Intake:** Upon completing of their investigation, a law enforcement agency may make a referral to this agency. An intake worker reviews the referral information, the juvenile's history, and will meet with the juvenile and parents or legal guardian to collect additional information. The intake worker then considers all available information to determine appropriate services. They may close the case, enter a deferred prosecution agreement which will be monitored by Juvenile Intake, or they may refer to the District Attorney for petition to Juvenile Court. Most options available in court (i.e, restitution, community service, supervision) are also available through a Deferred Prosecution Agreement.
2. **Referral to District Attorney's Office:** The District Attorney will review the Intake decision and determine whether or not to file a petition. A petition is a written document which alleges the juvenile committed an act which would be considered a crime if an adult.
3. **Plea Hearing:** If a delinquency petition is file, this is the juvenile's first court appearance. Here the juvenile either admits or denies the allegations in the petition. The juvenile has the opportunity to waive time limits or request a substitution of the Judge assigned. At this hearing, typically a Pre-Trial conference and Dispositional Hearing are scheduled and all parties will receive notices.
4. **Pre-Trial Conference:** This is an informal meeting between the prosecutor, defense attorney, and social worker, where they try to agree on conditions and resolve the case without a trial.
5. **Fact Finding Hearing:** This is a hearing where the Judge hears the facts of the case. Through physical evidence and testimony by witnesses, the prosecutor attempts to prove beyond a reasonable doubt the allegations in the petition. If the Judge finds the allegations are proven, the Judge may sentence the juvenile immediately or set a date for a Dispositional Hearing.
6. **Dispositional Hearing:** This is hearing in which the placement and treatment of the juvenile are decided by the Judge. The assigned social worker will prepare a written report for the Judge, recommending a plan to hold the youth accountable, protect the community, and build the youth's competencies.

The terminology used in juvenile justice differs from that used in the criminal justice system. The following are a few comparisons:

<u>Adult</u>	<u>Juvenile</u>
Arrest	Take into Custody
Bail Hearing	Custody Hearing
Crime	Delinquent Act
Criminal Complaint	Petition
Arraignment/Initial Appearance	Plea Hearing
Trail with a Jury	Fact-Finding Hearing without Jury
Presentence Investigation	Court Report
Conviction	Adjudication
Sentence	Disposition
Probation	Supervision
Jail/Prison	Detention/Corrections
Parole	Aftercare