



The purpose of the laws relating to juvenile court is to promote public safety and reduce juvenile delinquency by developing individual responsibility for lawful behavior. This should be done through means that are fair and just and that recognize the unique characteristics of youth and give them access to opportunities for personal and social growth.



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Minnesota Courts Website

www.mncourts.gov

General information, access to case records, plus
Self-Help Center and Forms

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"Ensuring the Success of Youth Since 1976"

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The Impact Of Your Juvenile Record

**Collateral Consequences
that Follow Juvenile
Offenders**



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The Impact of Your Juvenile Record

The term “collateral consequences” is a term used to describe the barriers that a person might experience due to a juvenile or criminal record.

Some collateral consequences are sanctions—government imposed barriers that prevent people with both criminal and juvenile delinquency records from engaging in certain activities. Collateral consequences can also result from the stigma associated with involvement in the juvenile justice system. When accessible to the public, juvenile records may create barriers for young adults.

What follows are some examples of the many collateral consequences of your juvenile record.

EMPLOYMENT CONSEQUENCES

Criminal background screening is done by employers in the hiring process. Even private records are available when an informed consent is signed, which is often required when applying for a job.

HOUSING CONSEQUENCES

Private landlords make decisions based on public juvenile records and background checks. In addition, if you are a parent of a juvenile delinquent, you can be forced to move due to your child’s delinquency record.

COLLEGE ADMISSIONS

Juvenile delinquency history can negatively affect a student’s ability to enter the college of his/her choice.

CHILD CARE, FOSTER PARENTING

Background checks are performed on anyone who works or volunteers to work with children or vulnerable adults, which prevents people with criminal or juvenile records from working with those populations.

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POSSESSION OF FIREARMS

The right to possess a firearm can be denied. Juveniles adjudicated delinquent for a crime of violence are subject to a lifetime ban on possession of any type of firearm.

MILITARY SERVICE /LAW ENFORCEMENT

Moral character enlistment standards are performed by all four branches of the military. All felony delinquency adjudications will typically bar entry into the military service. In addition, a heightened background check is conducted for anyone applying to be licensed as a peace officer.

INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL

Juveniles who receive adult criminal sentences may be deemed inadmissible to enter into Canada or other foreign countries. Juveniles convicted of trafficking drugs may be ineligible for a passport.

DRIVER’S LICENSE

Many driving offenses trigger a suspension or revocation of a driver’s license – this consequence is applied regardless of the driver’s age.

VOTING RIGHTS

In Minnesota, juveniles with an adult conviction are ineligible to vote until the sentence is completed and they are discharged from probation or parole.

SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Students who commit juvenile crime may be banned from participating in school sports and/or extracurricular activities at school.

ENHANCEMENTS

Under Minnesota law, certain offenses that would otherwise be misdemeanors can be enhanced to gross or even felonies based on past convictions.

Aren’t my Juvenile Records Private?

Generally, records of juveniles are private and not accessible to the public, but accessible to other government entities in statutorily defined situations and can be disseminated to the child’s parents and the juvenile themselves when they become adults. However, there are ways that juvenile records can be made publicly accessible:

- The court may order that a juvenile at least 14 years of age who is charged with a felony offense be certified as an adult and tried in criminal court. Adult court records are publicly accessible.
- If a juvenile is charged with a felony-level offense at age 16-17, the court proceedings and physical records are open to the public.
- Extended Jurisdiction Juvenile Prosecution is a sentencing option for felony-level juvenile offenses (age 14 and older) where the youth receives a stayed adult prison sentence and is placed on juvenile probation until age 21. If probation is successfully completed, they retain the juvenile disposition and avoid adult criminal conviction; however, if they fail, their case results in adult conviction in adult criminal court and thus a public record.
- Some juvenile records are public and easily accessible by employers and landlords who screen applicants based upon criminal history when an informed consent is signed. An informed consent form is a common part of many employment and housing applications. Thus, even private juvenile records can result in sanctions that limit career and housing options for people.
- Certain records are automatically shared with the schools, including controlled substance offenses and offenses where victims are enrolled or employed at a school.