

# Federal Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Act and Washington State Laws:



**STRICTLY PROHIBIT** the secure detainment of youth accused of committing criminal-type offenses in adult jails, lockups, and holding facilities **FOR MORE THAN SIX HOURS** for the purposes of identification, processing, release to parents, or transfer to a juvenile facility.

The six-hour hold exception also provides that an accused or adjudicated delinquent juvenile can be detained for up to six hours **BEFORE A COURT APPEARANCE** and up to an additional six hours after a court appearance in an adult jail or lockup.



Juveniles or any persons under the age of 18, including those charged as adults and/or held in adult facilities in the interest of justice, must be **SIGHT AND SOUND SEPARATED** from adult offenders including inmate trustees.



Status offenders, non-offenders, non-resident juveniles, and civil-type juvenile offenders **CANNOT BE HELD IN SECURE CUSTODY STATUS** at any time in an adult jail, lockup, or holding facility.

According to federal law, **status offenses include (for youth under age 18):**

- Runaway
- Truancy
- Violations of curfew
- Underage possession or consumption of tobacco products
- A youth who violates a court order or has a warrant calling for their arrest related to a status offense (e.g., a youth found in contempt or failing to appear related to a Truancy or At-Risk Youth order/proceeding) remains a status offender, and is not reclassified as a delinquent or criminal-type offender



Washington State Department of  
**CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES**

## For more information, contact:

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