

## 1.1 Purpose of Manual

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With support from the Office of Indigent Defense Services, which includes the Office of the Juvenile Defender (*see infra* § 1.4, Office of the Juvenile Defender), the School of Government at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill has created a series of manuals designed to assist indigent defense attorneys representing defendants and respondents in a variety of proceedings. The purpose of this manual is to provide a thorough review of juvenile delinquency law and proceedings for the attorney new to practice in juvenile court, as well as to serve as a statutory and case law reference for seasoned juvenile defenders. Incorporated in the legal authority, the reader will find practice tips or suggestions for best practices at each stage of the proceedings, which have been provided by experienced juvenile defenders in North Carolina.

This manual contains a discussion of the role of counsel in juvenile proceedings as well as information from the National Juvenile Defender Center on the special challenges and approaches to communicating with a juvenile client. The jurisdiction of juvenile court and the parties and other participants to the proceeding are reviewed. Each stage of a delinquency proceeding is examined, from the intake process, through the filing of a petition, custody hearings, probable cause and transfer hearings, and discovery in juvenile court, to the adjudicatory and dispositional hearings.

Important issues, such as the juvenile's capacity to proceed, motions to suppress statements of the juvenile or evidence seized, probation and violation of probation hearings in juvenile proceedings, and commitment of juveniles to the Division of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice are addressed in separate chapters. Procedures for appeals of juvenile cases and expunction of juvenile court records are also covered briefly.

Other indigent defense manuals in the series, which may be viewed on the School of Government's [defender manuals website](#) at no charge, are sources of more in-depth information in their respective areas of law:

- North Carolina Defender Manual (Vol. 1, Pretrial; Vol. 2, Trial)
- North Carolina Civil Commitment Manual
- North Carolina Guardianship Manual
- Immigration Consequences of a Criminal Conviction in North Carolina
- Raising Issues of Race in North Carolina Criminal Cases

Manuals on other topics, including child support contempt proceedings and abuse, neglect, dependency, and termination of rights proceedings, are also available on that site under the Other Manuals tab.