

## 1.2 Basic Terminology

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While juveniles enjoy many of the same rights as adults in the criminal justice system, juvenile delinquency cases have been referred to as civil proceedings in North Carolina case law. The juvenile is referred to as a respondent to the proceeding, not a defendant. A delinquency case is initiated by the filing of a petition and proceeds to an adjudicatory hearing, not a trial, before a district court judge. The judge does not sentence the juvenile who has been adjudicated delinquent, but instead is required to craft a disposition after a dispositional hearing that is carefully tailored to address the unique circumstances of the juvenile. Other terms used in various areas of juvenile law are highlighted at the beginning of each chapter.