

## **12.1 Overview**

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The adjudicatory hearing is the hearing before a district court judge to determine whether a juvenile has committed a delinquent act. At the hearing, the juvenile can either enter an admission to the allegations in the petition or contest the allegations. If the juvenile contests the allegations, the State must prove the allegations beyond a reasonable doubt. Counsel for the juvenile may cross-examine the State's witnesses and may present testimony and other evidence. Procedures for adjudicatory hearings are set forth in Article 24 of the Juvenile Code, G.S. 7B-2400 through 7B-2414.

This chapter outlines the basic procedures for an adjudicatory hearing. Many aspects of the adjudicatory process are discussed in greater detail in other chapters, which are referenced throughout this chapter.