

## **13.1 Overview**

---

### **13.1 Overview**

Following an adjudication of delinquency, the court proceeds to a dispositional hearing for entry of an order of disposition within the statutory alternatives. The court must determine the proper disposition level based on both the seriousness of the offense adjudicated and the juvenile's history of delinquency. Once the court determines the disposition level, it must order a disposition that meets the needs of the juvenile and provides for protection of the public. Statutory alternatives range from dismissal of the case to commitment to the Division of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice. Counsel should advise the juvenile of possible dispositions within the available dispositional alternatives but must advocate for the disposition desired by the juvenile.

This chapter will review dispositional hearing procedures and statutory provisions for determining the classification of the offense and the juvenile's delinquency history level. Alternatives for each dispositional level and the court's discretion within the statutory mandates are discussed.