

## 2.5 Right to Standard of Proof Beyond a Reasonable Doubt

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Juveniles have the constitutional right under the Due Process Clause of the 14th Amendment to be adjudicated under the standard of proof of beyond a reasonable doubt. *In re Winship*, 397 U.S. 358, 368 (1970). In *Winship*, the U.S. Supreme Court recognized that although important differences exist between juvenile proceedings and criminal trials, the potential for the juvenile's loss of liberty requires that the standard of proof of beyond a reasonable doubt be applied in juvenile delinquency proceedings. *Id.* at 366–68. This right is codified in G.S. 7B-2409. *See infra* § 12.5D, Burden of Proof.