

## 3.2 Terminology Used in this Chapter

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**Custodian** is a “person or agency that has been awarded legal custody of a juvenile by a court.” G.S. 7B-1501(6).

**Division** is the Division of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice. The Division is charged with far-reaching duties, which include responsibility for operating State juvenile facilities and youth development centers, appointment of the chief court counselor in each district, establishment of community-based treatment and prevention services, and developing training plans for juvenile court counselors and other personnel responsible for the care, supervision, and treatment of juveniles. *See* G.S. 143B-806(b)(1)–(19).

**Guardian** is a person with legal authority to make decisions for another person. The court may appoint a guardian of the person for a juvenile who is the subject of a petition alleging delinquency. G.S. 7B-2001. Under Chapter 35A, “Incompetency and Guardianship,” a guardian of the person can be appointed for a minor only if there is no “natural guardian.” G.S. 35A-1224(a). The term “natural guardian” includes biological parents. *Valles de Portillo v. D.H. Griffin Wrecking Co.*, 134 N.C. App. 714 (1999).

**Guardian ad Litem** is a person who is appointed in a legal proceeding to represent the interest of a party who is under a legal disability, including minority and incompetence.

**Jurisdiction** is the legal authority of a tribunal to adjudicate and determine the subject matter before the court.

**Juvenile court counselor** is a “person responsible for intake services and court supervision services to juveniles under the supervision of the chief court counselor.” G.S. 7B-1501(18a). The juvenile court counselor is also responsible for preparing a predisposition report with an attached risk and needs assessment of the juvenile that is presented to the court at disposition pursuant to G.S. 7B-2413.

**Venue** is the judicial district within the state in which a juvenile case is properly heard.

**Youth development center** is a “secure residential facility authorized to provide long-term treatment, education, and rehabilitative services for delinquent juveniles committed by the court to the Division,” often referred to as training school. G.S. 7B-1501(29).