

5.2 Terminology Used in this Chapter

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Complaint is the report from a law enforcement officer or from a member of the community made to the juvenile court counselor alleging delinquent acts committed by a juvenile. The complaint is typically recorded on the AOC juvenile petition form. *See [Form AOC-J-310](#)* (Juvenile Petition (Delinquent)) (Oct. 2008).

Delinquent juvenile is a person who, “while less than 16 years of age but at least 6 years of age, commits a crime or infraction under State law or under an ordinance of local government, including violation of the motor vehicle laws, or who commits indirect contempt by a juvenile as defined in G.S. 5A-31.” G.S. 7B-1501(7).

Diversion is the decision of the juvenile court counselor not to authorize the filing of a petition in juvenile court even though the allegations, if true, would constitute a crime if committed by an adult. A diversion plan may consist of referral to community resources and may include a diversion contract between the juvenile court counselor, the juvenile, and the juvenile’s parent, guardian, or custodian containing specific statutory requirements. G.S. 7B-1706(a), (b).

Intake is the “process of screening and evaluating a complaint alleging that a juvenile is delinquent or undisciplined to determine whether the complaint should be filed as a petition.” G.S. 7B-1501(13).

Juvenile court counselor is the “person responsible for intake services and court supervision services to juveniles under the supervision of the chief court counselor.” G.S. 7B-1501(18a). In some jurisdictions the juvenile court counselor who primarily provides intake services is referred to as the “intake counselor.”

Petition is the document filed in the office of the Clerk of Superior Court initiating a juvenile court proceeding. The petition is analogous to a warrant filed against an adult in criminal court.