

### 9.3 First Appearance

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A first appearance is an initial hearing that must be held if a petition alleges that a juvenile committed an offense that would be a felony if committed by an adult. The first appearance must occur within 10 days of the filing of the petition or at the secure custody review hearing if the juvenile is in secure or nonsecure custody. A continuance may be granted for “good cause” if the juvenile is not in custody. G.S. 7B-1808(a).

At the juvenile’s first appearance, the court must inform the juvenile of the allegations in the petition and the date of the probable cause hearing, if applicable, and determine whether counsel has been retained or appointed. Additionally, the court must inform the juvenile’s parents that they must attend all scheduled hearings. G.S. 7B-1808(b)(1)–(4). There is no statutory provision for the court to make other determinations or to set conditions, such as to impose a curfew or to restrict with whom the juvenile may associate, at the first appearance. Counsel should object if the court attempts to go beyond the statutory requirements.