



# MONTANA YOUTH COURTS

## Formal Proceeding Process

[MCA TITLE 41 CHAPTER 5 PART 14](#)

1. Referral to County Attorney: If a youth's case meets the requirements for formal court it is referred to the County Attorney's Office for review.

[MCA 41-5-1400](#)

2. Petition Filed: The County Attorney's Office files a petition outlining the charges against the youth.

3. Summons issued: The youth and their parents or guardians are summoned to appear in court.

[MCA 41-5-1401](#)

4. Initial Hearing: The youth appears before the Youth Court Judge. If the youth does not have a private attorney, one is provided through the Public Defender's Office.

5. Status Hearing(s): Often times the court will hold status hearings as the defense attorney and prosecutor negotiate an agreement for the youth.

6. Adjudicatory Hearing: The court determines whether the youth committed the alleged offense.

[MCA 41-5-1502](#)

7. Disposition Hearing: If the youth is found to have committed the offense, the court decides on the appropriate interventions, which may include probation supervision, therapeutic interventions, skill-building, community service, or other measures.

[MCA TITLE 41 CHAPTER 5 PART 15](#)