

Juvenile Justice System Charge Classes and Crime Types

Charge Classes

Charge classes are a hierarchy based on the severity of consequences that can be administered. So “assault”, for example, might appear as a simple misdemeanor (Simple Assault) as well as an aggravated misdemeanor (Aggravated Assault). Charges at the upper end of the hierarchy (felonies) represent the most egregious threat, damage or injury done to persons, property or the community.

- A Felony
- B Felony
- C Felony
- D Felony
- Aggravated Misdemeanor
- Serious Misdemeanor
- Simple Misdemeanor

Status Offenses – are activities that are deemed offenses when committed by juveniles. These offenses are not illegal for adults (e.g. truancy, curfew, running away, possession of alcohol).

Civil Offenses – refers to the violation of civil statutes or regulations (e.g. speeding, fishing & hunting violations, no auto insurance, no valid driver’s license). These are typically resolved through fines or surcharges imposed by governmental agencies.

Crime Types

Crimes are also grouped into the following types:

- Violent - behavior by persons, against persons that intentionally threatens, attempts, or actually inflicts physical harm.
- Property - category of crime in which the person who commits the crime seeks to do damage to or derive an unlawful benefit from another’s property without using force or threat of force.
- Drug - the category used to describe various offenses involving controlled substances (e.g. possession, distribution, manufacturing).
- Public Order - criminal acts that deviate from society's general ideas of normal social behavior and are deemed harmful to the public good and disruptive to a community's daily life.
- Other – other criminal and civil offenses that do not fit into the above classifications.