When you go to juvenile court, you may be made a ward of the court. You may be placed in a group home, or committed to juvenile hall, a camp or the Division of Juvenile Justice. The court may also place you on probation and order you to do certain things. But many other things can also happen, sometimes many years later. This is a brief summary of the “collateral consequences” of juvenile court.

Nothing in this chart should be taken as legal advice. For more detailed information, please refer to *Collateral Consequences of Juvenile Delinquency Proceedings in California* (Pacific Juvenile Defender Center 20011), and be sure to talk to your lawyer about your personal situation.

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| **Summary of California Juvenile Collateral Consequences** | |
| 1. **Adjudication of Delinquency** | A delinquency adjudication is **not** an adult conviction, but sometimes people do not understand the difference, and this can cause problems later on. |
| 1. **Confidentiality of Juvenile Proceedings** | Juvenile court hearings are usually closed to the public, but may be open to the public if you are charged with certain serious offenses. |
| 1. **Confidentiality of Juvenile Court Records** | Juvenile court records are usually confidential, but if you are adjudicated for certain serious offenses, some parts of the record may be open to the public. Also, regardless of the charge, juvenile courts may disclose portions of juvenile records (W & I Code § 827). |
| 1. **Adult Sentencing** | Your juvenile record may significantly affect sentencing if you are later convicted as an adult. Some adjudications for serious offenses may count as a “strike” to increase your sentence under the “3 Strikes” law. |
| 1. **Registration** | Adjudication or admission of certain sexual assault, arson, and gang offenses in juvenile court may result in complicated, long-lasting registration requirements. |
| 1. **Immigration Status** | Your juvenile court case may affect your immigration status. |
| 1. **Restitution, Fines, Fees and Parental Liability** | You or your parents may be required to pay fines, restitution and court costs. Parents may be assessed fees related to the costs of detention or placement, attorney fees, or for the probation supervision of the child. |
| 1. **Driver’s License** | Your driver’s license may be suspended or revoked upon adjudication for certain offenses, or your ability to obtain a license may be delayed. |
| 1. **Access to School** | For certain offenses, schools may be notified about the filing of juvenile petitions, as well as the outcome of the case. Schools may expel or suspend you upon proof that you committed certain offenses. Involvement in the juvenile system may disrupt your education and, upon release, there may be attempts to send you to an alternative school. You may need help with understanding your rights to be able to return to regular high school. |
| 1. **Access to Higher Education and Financial Aid** | A delinquency adjudication does not need to be reported on many college applications, but colleges often learn of them through the youth’s educational records or references. Youth who are convicted as adults on drug charges face a 1, 2, or 3-year bar on receiving federal financial aid. |
| 1. **Carrying a Firearm** | If you are adjudicated delinquent of certain serious offenses, you may be prevented from carrying a firearm, when you otherwise would have the right to have one. |
| 1. **Voting** | You can still vote when you turn 18 even if you have a delinquency adjudication on your record. Youth tried as adults, and who are in prison or on parole supervision, do not have the right to vote. |
| 1. **Military Service** | A delinquency adjudication affects your ability to enlist in the military. While you may be able to obtain a waiver, certain offenses or past behaviors may bar you from enlistment. Each branch of the service has its own rules. |
| 1. **Employment** | While most legal restrictions on employment apply only to juveniles convicted as adults, the ability to obtain employment or acquire licenses for certain professions may be hurt by a delinquency adjudication because employers and others do not understand the difference between adult and juvenile adjudications. |
| 1. **Public Benefits** | Most restrictions on public benefits pertain to youth convicted as adults. An adult felony conviction for a drug offense is a bar to receiving CalWORKS, and possibly, General Assistance. However, lack of understanding about the difference between juvenile adjudications and convictions may still cause you to experience barriers in obtaining public benefits. |
| 1. **Housing** | Involvement in the juvenile justice system may result in you or your family losing housing or housing assistance. |
| 1. **Traveling Restrictions** | Courts may impose probation restrictions on travel within or outside of the U.S., and a juvenile record may bar entry into some foreign countries. |
| 1. **Foster Care and Adoptive Parents** | A record of juvenile adjudications may be a bar to becoming a foster or adoptive parent. |