

Key Players

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Juvenile Resource Counsel



1

Judge

Presides over court proceedings. The judge is obligated to conduct proceedings impartially, hear all the witnesses and any other evidence presented by the parties of the case, assess the credibility and arguments of the parties, and then issue a ruling on the matter at hand based on his or her interpretation of the law and his or her own personal judgment. There are no juries in youth court.



2

Referee: §43-21-111

(1) In counties that do not have a county court or family court, the Chancery Court judge may appoint regular or special referees who shall be attorneys at law and members of the bar in good standing to act in cases concerning children within the jurisdiction of the youth court. A regular referee shall hold office until removed by the judge.

(2) Referees are required to receive judicial training approved by the Mississippi Judicial College and shall be required to receive regular annual continuing education in the field of juvenile justice.

(3) The judge may direct that hearings in any case or class of cases be conducted in the first instance by the referee. The judge may also delegate his own administrative responsibilities to the referee.

(4) All hearings authorized to be heard by a referee shall proceed in the same manner as hearings before the youth court judge. A referee shall possess all powers and perform all the duties of the youth court judge in the hearings authorized to be heard by the referee.

3

Designee §43-21-105(c)

A designee is any person that the judge appoints to perform a duty which this chapter requires to be done by the judge or his designee.

Prosecutor

The prosecutor represents the government or the "people" of the state. The prosecutor's job is to prove that the charges brought against a youth are true by presenting evidence and witnesses against the youth.

4

Juvenile Defender:

An attorney who is either appointed or retained to represent youth charged with committing a delinquency or a status offense. Juvenile Defenders are obligated to advocate for the expressed interest of the youth they represent.

5

Intake Officer/Unit

When the youth court receives a report regarding a child which may be under the jurisdiction of the youth court, the court's intake unit shall promptly make a preliminary inquiry to determine whether the interest of the child, other children in the same environment or the public requires the youth court to take further action.

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