

Two Paths in Court

Compare juvenile behaviors and possible court responses.

SS8CG5.a "Explain the difference between delinquent and unruly behavior and the consequences of each."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the sentences that explain what makes behavior delinquent or unruly, and circle each possible court consequence or response.

How Juvenile Cases Differ

- ① In Georgia, juvenile courts handle some cases involving young people. A delinquent act is an act that would be a crime if an adult committed it. For example, taking a neighbor's bicycle without permission may be theft, and breaking a store window on purpose may be criminal damage to property. The court decides what happened through a legal process. If the court finds the charge proved, the child is adjudicated delinquent. This is different from being convicted in adult criminal court.
- ② Unruly behavior is different. It involves conduct that is not a crime for adults but can bring a child to juvenile court because of the child's age or situation. Georgia examples include repeatedly skipping school, running away from home, or habitually refusing reasonable directions from a parent or guardian. These are often called status offenses because the behavior applies to a young person's status as a child. An unruly case does not become delinquent simply because the behavior is repeated.
- ③ Consequences are chosen to protect the community and help the young person change behavior. In either type of case, a judge may order counseling, supervision, or services. A delinquent case can also lead to restitution for harm, probation conditions, or detention or custody, depending on the act and the child's record. In an unruly case, the court usually emphasizes family services, school attendance plans, counseling, and supervision. The judge considers the facts, safety, needs, and available options before making an order.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What makes an act delinquent according to the passage?

2 Why can unruly behavior bring a child to juvenile court even when it is not a crime for adults?

3 Name two possible consequences of a delinquent case.

4 How does the usual focus of an unruly case differ from possible consequences in a delinquent case?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write four sentences about two fictional young people. Describe one delinquent behavior and one unruly behavior, label each one, and state one possible court consequence for each.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the sentences that explain what makes behavior delinquent or unruly, and circle each possible court consequence or response. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What makes an act delinquent according to the passage?	It is an act that would be a crime if an adult committed it.
2	Why can unruly behavior bring a child to juvenile court even when it is not a crime for adults?	It can bring a child to court because of the child's age or situation. It is behavior that applies to a young person's status as a child.
3	Name two possible consequences of a delinquent case.	Answers include restitution, probation conditions, detention, or custody.
4	How does the usual focus of an unruly case differ from possible consequences in a delinquent case?	An unruly case usually emphasizes family services, school attendance plans, counseling, and supervision. A delinquent case may also lead to restitution, probation conditions, detention, or custody.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Jordan damages a bus shelter on purpose. This is delinquent behavior because it would be a crime if an adult did it, and the court could order restitution. Casey repeatedly skips school. This is unruly behavior, and the court could order an attendance plan and counseling.

Accept original, plausible examples that correctly distinguish an act that would be criminal for an adult from behavior that applies because the person is a child. Accept consequences named in the passage and matched appropriately to each case type.