

Fair Process Rights

Analyzing protections in Georgia juvenile court

SS8CG5.b "Describe the rights of juveniles involved in the juvenile justice system."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each right a juvenile has. Number the court procedures that help make the process fair.

Rights in Juvenile Court

- ① When a young person is accused of a delinquent act in Georgia, the case may enter juvenile court. A juvenile does not lose basic legal protections because of age. Before a court hearing, the juvenile and the parent, guardian, or legal custodian must receive notice of the allegations and the hearing. This notice helps the family prepare. The juvenile has the right to know what conduct is being claimed and to have a fair chance to respond in court.
- ② At questioning and in court, a juvenile has important due-process rights. The juvenile may remain silent rather than answer questions that could be used against them. The juvenile also has the right to an attorney. If the family cannot afford one, an attorney can be appointed. An attorney explains the process, advises the juvenile, and speaks for the juvenile's interests. The juvenile can also question witnesses who testify and present evidence or witnesses in response at the hearing.
- ③ The court must use fair procedures before deciding whether the juvenile committed the alleged act. At an adjudicatory hearing, the state must prove the allegation beyond a reasonable doubt. The judge listens to evidence from both sides before making a decision. Juvenile cases are generally heard by a judge, not a jury. Records and hearings may receive privacy protections that differ from adult criminal cases. These protections balance public safety, accountability, and the juvenile's right to fair treatment.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 Who must receive notice before a juvenile court hearing, and what should the notice identify?

2 What right does a juvenile have if the family cannot afford an attorney?

3 Name two ways a juvenile can respond to evidence at questioning or at a hearing.

4 What must the state prove at an adjudicatory hearing, and what level of proof is required?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

A 15-year-old named Jordan is accused of a delinquent act and is called to juvenile court. Write four sentences explaining at least three rights Jordan has and how those rights support a fair process.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each right a juvenile has. Number the court procedures that help make the process fair. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Who must receive notice before a juvenile court hearing, and what should the notice identify?	The juvenile and the parent, guardian, or legal custodian must receive notice. It identifies the allegations and the hearing.
2	What right does a juvenile have if the family cannot afford an attorney?	An attorney can be appointed for the juvenile.
3	Name two ways a juvenile can respond to evidence at questioning or at a hearing.	A juvenile may remain silent, question witnesses who testify, and present evidence or witnesses in response. Accept any two.
4	What must the state prove at an adjudicatory hearing, and what level of proof is required?	The state must prove that the juvenile committed the alleged act beyond a reasonable doubt.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Jordan should receive notice of the allegation and the hearing so the family can prepare. Jordan may remain silent during questions that could be used against him. Jordan has the right to an attorney, including an appointed attorney if the family cannot afford one. At the hearing, Jordan can question witnesses and present evidence in response.

Accept equivalent explanations of notice, counsel, silence, questioning witnesses, presenting evidence, the burden of proof, a judge hearing the case, or privacy protections. For Part 3, students should explain at least three rights and connect them to fair treatment or preparation.