

Custody to Court

Trace the first steps of a Georgia juvenile case.

SS8CG5.c "Explain the steps in the juvenile justice system when a juvenile is first taken into custody."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Number the major stages in order, starting with custody and ending with disposition. Circle each decision that can change what happens next, so you can see where a case may take different paths.

What Happens After Custody?

- ① When a young person is taken into custody in Georgia, an officer brings the child to a juvenile intake officer or detention facility. The officer records why the child was taken into custody and contacts a parent, guardian, or custodian as soon as possible. At intake, court staff gather facts about the complaint, the child's history, and safety needs. The child may be released to an adult, placed in shelter care, or held in secure detention while the court decides what should happen next.
- ② If the child is held in secure detention or shelter care, the juvenile court holds a detention hearing within 72 hours, not counting weekends and legal holidays. A judge decides whether there is probable cause to believe the child committed the alleged act and whether continued custody is needed. The judge can order release, release with conditions, or continued placement. This early hearing does not decide whether the child is delinquent. It decides where the child stays while the case moves forward.
- ③ After reviewing the case, intake may close a weak complaint, use an informal adjustment, or file a petition with juvenile court. A petition starts the formal court case. At an adjudicatory hearing, the judge hears evidence and decides whether allegations are proved. If the judge finds the child delinquent, a dispositional hearing follows. At disposition, the judge selects a plan for the child after considering the evidence, such as supervision, services, restitution, or placement, based on the child's needs, public safety, and the law.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What two actions does the officer take after a child is taken into custody?

2 What are the three possible places or release outcomes named after intake?

3 When must a detention hearing occur, and what two decisions does the judge make at that hearing?

4 What begins a formal juvenile court case? Name the hearing that decides whether allegations are proved and the hearing that may follow if the child is found delinquent.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

For a fictional child who is held after a complaint, write a five-step case path. Number the steps and include parent contact, intake, the detention hearing deadline and decision, the petition route, and the later hearing or hearings.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Number the major stages in order, starting with custody and ending with disposition. Circle each decision that can change what happens next, so you can see where a case may take different paths. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What two actions does the officer take after a child is taken into custody?	The officer records why the child was taken into custody and contacts a parent, guardian, or custodian as soon as possible.
2	What are the three possible places or release outcomes named after intake?	The child may be released to an adult, placed in shelter care, or held in secure detention.
3	When must a detention hearing occur, and what two decisions does the judge make at that hearing?	It must occur within 72 hours, excluding weekends and legal holidays. The judge decides whether probable cause exists and whether continued custody is needed.
4	What begins a formal juvenile court case? Name the hearing that decides whether allegations are proved and the hearing that may follow if the child is found delinquent.	Filing a petition begins the formal case. An adjudicatory hearing decides whether allegations are proved, and a dispositional hearing may follow if the child is found delinquent.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

1. An officer records the reason for custody and contacts the child's guardian as soon as possible. 2. At intake, court staff gather facts about the complaint and the child's safety needs. 3. Within 72 hours, excluding weekends and legal holidays, a judge decides probable cause and whether custody should continue. 4. Intake files a petition, which begins the formal juvenile court case. 5. At an adjudicatory hearing, the judge decides whether allegations are proved. If the child is found delinquent, a dispositional hearing selects a plan.

Accept equivalent wording that keeps the sequence accurate. For the open response, require all five named elements and recognize that a dispositional hearing occurs only if the child is found delinquent.