

JDAI - Tuscaloosa County, Alabama

Mission Statement

Our mission is to support a juvenile justice system which ensures the safety of youth and the community, utilizes the assessment of risks, eliminates the unnecessary detention of youth, provides a safe environment for the youth held in detention, and promotes healthy youth development by providing due process and collaborative, evidence-based interventions for youth and families.

Purpose of Detention

Detention is the temporary care of individuals under the jurisdiction of the Juvenile Court for whom secure custody is required for their own protection or that of the community, in physically restricting facilities, pending court disposition or transfer to another jurisdiction or agency.

The purpose of pre-adjudication detention is to protect the community and ensure that the minor appears at future hearings. Prior to adjudication, a minor should be released unless:

1. The minor is alleged to have committed a delinquent offense **AND**
2. The objective assessment demonstrated there is a high risk the minor will either commit another offense or will not appear at future hearings.

The purpose of detention following adjudication is to sanction delinquent conduct or violations of probation.

The purpose and goals of Juvenile Court are established in Alabama under the Code of Alabama Title 12-15-1, also known as the Alabama Juvenile Justice Act. The purpose is to facilitate the care, protection, and discipline of children who come within the jurisdiction of the juvenile court, while acknowledging the responsibility of the juvenile court to preserve the public peace and security. Juvenile Detention is the temporary care of delinquent children or children alleged to be delinquent in secure custody pending court disposition or transfer to a residential facility or further care of a child adjudicated a delinquent.

The authority to detain a juvenile is established in the Code of Alabama Title 12-15-58 and 12-15-59. This code states a child taken into custody as delinquent shall be released unless the child would present clear and substantial threat of a serious nature to the person or property of others where the child is alleged to be delinquent, the release of such child is would present a serious threat of substantial harm to such child; or the child has a history of failing to appear for hearings before the court.