

Types of Court Hearings

The Preliminary Hearing Process

You have been summoned to appear at the Sanilac County Family Division of the 24th Circuit Court for the purpose of a Preliminary Hearing. The purpose of this preliminary hearing is to determine if there is probable cause for the Court to believe the juvenile has committed the offense(s) listed in the petition. The Court will decide two issues at the Preliminary Hearing. The first will be whether or not to file the petition, and the second issue is placement of the juvenile if the petition is authorized.

You have certain rights at this hearing:

You have the right to be represented by an attorney. If you cannot afford an attorney, the Court will appoint one to represent you if you qualify for one.

You have the right to remain silent.

Everything you say is being recorded and could be used against you at this hearing or a future hearing.

You have the right to deny the charges brought against you.

You have the right to ask for an adjournment of this hearing if you have a good reason, such as if you wish to speak to an attorney.

You have the right to request a jury trial or a trial by the judge. If you do not request a trial by jury or with the judge, this case may be set for trial before the referee.

The parents of the juvenile are hereby notified that fines, costs, and reimbursements may be assessed against you by the Court.

In the event that the minor will be requesting a court appointed attorney, the court will require that you fill out financial statements that they provide and that you give the court a copy of your most recent W-2 Tax Form or Proof of Income. If the

minor wants a court appointed attorney at the preliminary hearing, the paperwork will have to be submitted to the court prior to the hearing date to allow the court to review the paperwork to determine whether to appoint an attorney. Please understand that court appointed attorney fees will be paid by the court and billed to the parents and 100% reimbursement is expected.

If there are any further questions contact the juvenile court office at 1-810-648-3220.

Disposition Hearing

In delinquency cases, dispositional hearings are conducted after a jury or the court has found that a juvenile has committed an offense. The purpose of the disposition hearing is to determine what measures the court will take with respect to the juvenile and his or her parents or other adults.

Review Hearings

Cases can be reviewed at any point to determine how the case plan is working and to see what type of progress the youth has made since their disposition hearing.

Probation Violation Hearings

After a youth has been given court orders to follow, if at any time after those orders are given and the youth is under the court's jurisdiction, the youth violates any of those orders, any laws of Michigan or any ordinances of any municipality, he or she could be subject to a probation violation hearing.