

JUVENILE LAW 101:



COMMON LEGAL ISSUES AFFECTING FRANKLIN COUNTY TEENAGERS



Juvenile Court

Juvenile Court has jurisdiction over anyone under 18 who commits a crime.

How many cases?

Franklin County Juvenile Court hears thousands of cases each year involving minors from all over the entire county.

Charges often arise from:

- Bullying/Threats
- Sexting
- Fighting
- Vaping/Drugs/Alcohol
- Inappropriate online behavior
- Robbery/Theft
- Vandalism
- Traffic violations
- Inducing panic/making false alarms

What are the consequences?

- Juvenile dispositions can include:
- Time in juvenile prison
 - Residential treatment facilities
 - Probation
 - House arrest/electronic monitoring
 - Juvenile sex offender registration
 - Children Services involvement
 - Community service
 - Counseling

Many serious issues affect today's teens!



- **Heroin and opioids:** Ohio leads the nation in overdose deaths. Use of these drugs is prevalent in Ohio high schools.
- **Human trafficking:** In Ohio alone, more than 1,000 minors are trafficked annually. Victims come from all geographic areas and all socioeconomic levels.



The Prosecutor's Office offers presentations to schools in Franklin County to educate students, teachers, and parents on the juvenile justice system. Topics include the basics of juvenile court, a discussion of common offenses committed by juveniles, and resources available to teens in threatening situations.

To schedule a presentation at your school, please contact: Irene Knapp at 614-525-4440 or iknapp@franklincountyohio.gov



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THE SIDE EFFECTS OF SEXTING



What is sexting?

Using a cell phone or device to take, send, post, possess, or request sexually explicit photos.

Is it illegal?

Yes. In Ohio, an individual can be charged with a felony for sexting with a juvenile.

What are the consequences?

Felony dispositions can include:

- Time in juvenile prison
- Residential treatment facilities
- Probation
- House arrest/electronic monitoring
- Juvenile sex offender registration
- Children Services involvement
- Community service
- Counseling

Ohio sexting statutes

- Disseminating Matter Harmful to Juveniles – ORC § 2907.31
- Pandering Obscenity Involving a Minor – ORC § 2907.321
- Pandering Sexually Oriented Matter Involving a Minor – ORC § 2907.322
- Illegal Use of a Minor in Nudity Oriented Material – ORC § 2907.323

Rates of sexting among teens are on the rise!



28% of teens report having sent their own naked picture
68% of female teens report being asked to send a sext
46% of male teens report asking someone to send a sext



The Prosecutor's Office offers presentations to schools in Franklin County to provide the information necessary to prevent juveniles from being charged with serious offenses.

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