

Steps to Take After a Juvenile Arrest. If a [juvenile has been arrested](#) in Missouri, there are specific steps to take to help protect their rights and prepare for any legal proceedings. This checklist is designed to guide families through the initial steps after a juvenile arrest and to help a [defense attorney](#) prepare for any forthcoming court appearances:

1. Remain Calm and Reassure the Juvenile

- **Calm Communication:** Try to remain calm to help the juvenile feel supported by you during this difficult time. Avoid yelling at them or creating a stressful scenario.
- **Advise Remaining Silent:** Encourage the juvenile to stay quiet until a lawyer is present to avoid saying anything that could be used against them.

2. Contact a Trusted Juvenile Defense Attorney Immediately

- **Choose an Experienced Attorney:** [Juvenile defense](#) is a specialized area of law; [hire an attorney](#) with expertise in Missouri juvenile cases to guide you through the legal process.
- **Request Legal Representation at Interrogation:** An attorney should be present at all times for any questioning to protect the [juvenile's rights](#).

3. Understand the Juvenile's Rights

- **Right to an Attorney:** The juvenile has the right to legal counsel, which should be present during interrogations and court appearances.
- **Protect Against Self-Incrimination:** Make sure the juvenile understands they do not need to answer questions without an attorney present.

4. Stay Informed About the Charges

- **Request Information on Charges:** Ask the police or legal authorities for details about [the charges and any potential penalties](#).
- **Understand Potential Consequences:** [Juvenile offenses](#) may result in probation, community service, rehabilitation programs, or, in the most severe cases, detention.

5. Help Gather Information and Evidence

- **Collect any Relevant Documents:** Obtain police reports, witness statements, or any other documents related to the incidents.
- **Gather Character References:** If possible, collect letters or statements from coaches, teachers, or community leaders that speak to the juvenile's character.

6. Attend All Court Dates

- **Prepare for Initial Hearing in Juvenile Court:** The juvenile might be released to guardians or held in detention until the hearing. A [skilled juvenile crimes lawyer](#) will advise on what to expect.
- **Meet All Court Requirements:** Comply fully with court orders, like scheduled check-ins or participation in [diversion programs](#).

7. Explore Rehabilitation and Diversion Programs in Missouri

- **Work with Probation Officers:** If the juvenile is on probation, maintaining a positive relationship with the probation officer can be critical for a favorable outcome.
- **Research Available Programs:** Many juvenile cases can be diverted from formal court proceedings if the juvenile completes educational or community-based programs.

8. Develop a Comprehensive Plan for the Juvenile's Future

- **Prioritize School & Extracurricular Activities:** Maintaining balance, as well as positive activities and academics, can demonstrate responsibility and commitment to improvement in a juvenile court judge's eyes.
- **Evaluate Counseling or Support Options:** Juvenile arrests can impact [self-esteem and mental health](#). Consider counseling or family support options.

9. Monitor Social Media and Peers

- **Encourage Positive Peer Associations:** Staying connected with positive influences can help the juvenile avoid future legal trouble.
- **Avoid Discussing the Case Online:** Make sure the juvenile avoids sharing any information about the case online, particularly on social media.

10. Stay in Constant Contact with the Juvenile's Attorney

- **Ask Questions:** Don't hesitate to seek clarification on any aspect of the legal process, from proceedings to potential outcomes.
- **Regular Updates:** Keep in touch with the attorney about case progress and any juvenile court developments.

If your juvenile or a loved one's has been arrested in Missouri, you can take these proactive steps to support the juvenile's case, minimize penalties, and work toward a positive outcome. An experienced [juvenile crimes attorney from Combs Waterkotte](#) can provide expert legal guidance tailored to Missouri's juvenile laws during a free, confidential consultation. Call now at 314-900-HELP or [reach out online](#) to discuss the specifics of the juvenile's case.