

Office of the State Court Administrator



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Per CRS 13-1-137, the Judicial Branch is required to report annually to the judiciary committees of the House of Representatives and Senate, or to any successor committees, information concerning:

- (a) The number of juvenile delinquency cases;
- (b) The number of juvenile delinquency cases that involved an appointment of counsel;
- (c) The number of juvenile cases that involved a waiver of counsel;
- (d) The status of recommended reviews to juvenile court rules, forms, and chief justice directives regarding the representation of children in juvenile delinquency courts; and
- (e) The number of juvenile delinquency cases that involved a detention hearing, the number of juveniles who were released after the detention hearing, and the number of juveniles who remained in detention after the detention hearing.

Please find that information below.

- a.) In fiscal year 2015 there were 8,780 juvenile delinquency cases filed statewide
- b.) Of those 8,780 cases, in 6,312 cases the child had an attorney (Guardian ad Litem, Alternative Defense Counsel or public defender) during at least some portion of the case
- c.) A code for a waiver of counsel by parent was entered 157 times during fiscal year 2015. Please note that the code was introduced in October of 2014 so this number does not include the entire fiscal year
- d.) Juvenile Rules 3.7 and 3.9 were drafted and adopted in response to the legislation which required all juveniles in detention to have counsel appointed for their first appearance.

e.) In fiscal year 2015 there were 9,879 detention hearings held in 6,012 juvenile delinquency cases. The Judicial Branch's data management system does not capture whether or not the juvenile was detained before or after the hearing was held. However, the Department of Youth Corrections provided the State Court Administrator's Office with a list of juveniles released from detention in fiscal year 2015. Analysts matched the last name, first name and date of birth to juveniles who were subject to a detention hearing in fiscal year 2015. Of the 9,879 detention hearings held in fiscal year 2015, 2,456 had a release date within three days of the detention hearing. It should be noted that this method has limitations; for instance, if a juvenile's name or birthdate are not identical in both data sets, a match will not occur. Additionally, while the juvenile's release may not have been due to the detention hearing in every instance, these data may give a general indication of the volume of youths released as an outcome of the detention hearing.