

**C.R.S. 13-1-137**

**REPORTING OF DATA CONCERNING JUVENILE PROCEEDINGS**



**Reporting Period:** Fiscal Year 2024

Per C.R.S. 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;  
*In fiscal year 2024, there were 6,561 juvenile delinquency cases filed statewide.*
- B. The number of juvenile delinquency cases that involved an appointment of counsel;  
*Of those cases, in 5,156 cases the child had an attorney (Guardian ad Litem, Alternate Defense Counsel, or Public Defender) during at least some portion of the case.*
- C. The number of juvenile cases that involved a waiver of counsel;  
*A code for a waiver of counsel by parent was entered in 84 cases during fiscal year 2024.*
- D. The status of recommended reviews to juvenile court rules, forms, and chief justice directives regarding the representation of children in juvenile delinquency courts;  
*Attachment A (Fiscal Standards Eligibility Scoring Instrument) of Chief Justice Directive 14-01: Appointment of State-Funded Counsel in Juvenile Delinquency Cases was amended and reformatted in April 2024 for website accessibility. Additionally, the income eligibility guidelines in Attachment B were updated as part of the same amendments to Chief Justice Directive 14-01.*

*The Colorado Supreme Court Rules of Juvenile Procedure Committee discussed House Bill (HB) 22-1038, which grants the right to counsel for youth and took effect on January 9, 2023. The HB22-1038 subcommittee reviewed the progress of drafting a form order, which involved collaboration with the Office of Respondent Parents' Counsel (ORPC) and other key stakeholders. The subcommittee is continuing to revise the draft rules and will next focus on implementing procedures for youth participation in court hearings. Additionally, they reviewed the discovery rule, highlighting concerns with the current version, especially considering the new role of children as parties with client-directed counsel. The drafting subcommittee will now address revisions to the discovery rule. The drafting subcommittee also considered adopting a version of Colorado Rules of Civil Procedure (C.R.C.P.) 10 into the juvenile rules but recommended using the existing C.R.C.P. 10 instead of drafting a separate rule. The drafting committee suggested requesting two minor changes to C.R.C.P. 10 from the civil rules committee: adding Juvenile Court as a court type and including "Juvenile Rules of Procedure" in section (h).*

- 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; and  
*In fiscal year 2024, there were 5,308 detention hearings held in 3,851 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 Services provided the State Court Administrator's Office with a list of juveniles released from detention in fiscal year 2024. Analysts matched the last*

*name, first name and date of birth to juveniles who were subject to a detention hearing in fiscal year 2024. Of the 5,308 detention hearings held in fiscal year 2024, 1,468 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.*

- F. The process of training judicial officers and private defense attorneys concerning determinations of competency to proceed for juveniles and adults, competency evaluation reports, services to restore competency, and certification proceedings governed by article 65 of title 27.

*The process for training judicial officers includes live, virtual, and on-demand training through the annual judicial conference, new judge orientation programs, and other case specific programs throughout the year, in addition to live webinars and on-demand training. In fiscal year 2024, the following trainings were offered:*

- 1. 2024 Judicial Conference Sessions: Partnering with the Department of Human Services in Competency and Sanity Cases, The Intersection of Mental Health and the Courts; and*
- 2. 2024 New Judge Orientation: Working with Mental Health Issues.*