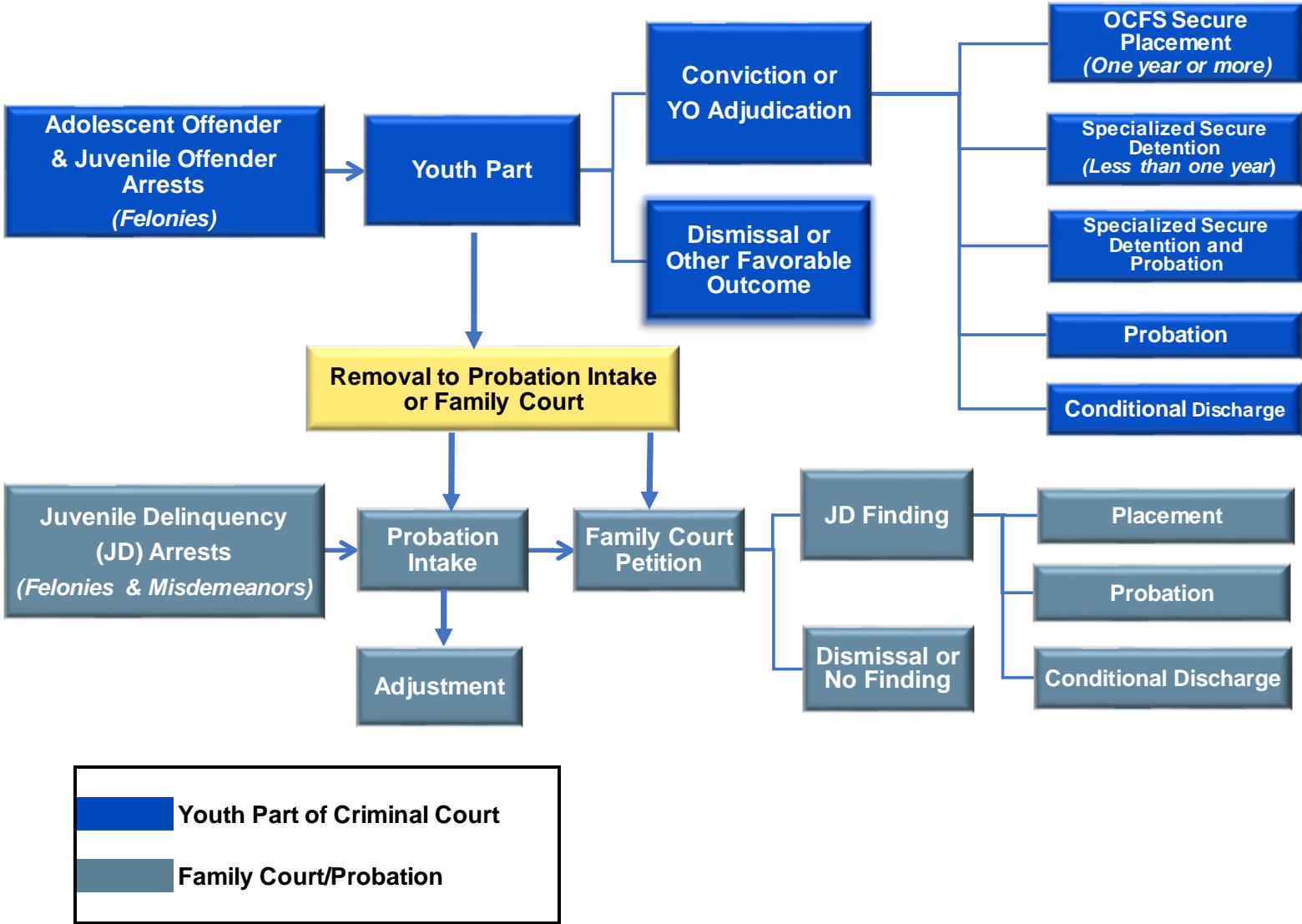


Youth Justice System Case Processing



Youth Justice System Case Processing (*continued*)

This chart shows the ways in which cases are processed in the state's youth justice system.

The Youth Part of Criminal Court handles cases involving 16- and 17-year-olds arrested for felonies (adolescent offenders/AOs) and 13-, 14-, and 15-year olds arrested for certain serious felonies (juvenile offenders/JOs). These cases either remain in Youth Part or are transferred to (also referred to as removed to) probation intake or Family Court, where they are treated as juvenile delinquency (JD) cases.

JD cases are handled in Family Courts and probation departments. Family Courts process cases involving youth who have a JD petition filed. Probation departments are responsible for screening cases for Family Courts to determine whether JD petitions should be filed, or those cases can be adjusted (also known as diverted). This process is referred to as probation intake. The following are processed as JD cases:

- Youth who are 7- through 15-years-old and charged with committing misdemeanor offenses and nearly all felony offenses.
- Youth who are age 16 and 17 and charged with misdemeanors.
- AO cases removed from the Youth Part of Criminal Court to probation intake or directly to Family Court.
- JO cases removed from the Youth Part of Criminal Court to Family Court.

District Attorneys' Offices handle cases in Youth Part while County Attorneys' Offices (also known as presentment agencies) handle cases in Family Court. Both offices have the option to decline to prosecute or dismiss cases. This step in the process is not shown on the chart since those decisions can be made at several different points as the case is being processed.

The [Statistics page](#) has additional information on case processing in Youth Part, Family Court or at probation intake.