

# Haus des Jugendrechts (The House of Youth Rights)

## Youth welfare during criminal proceedings at the Haus des Jugendrechts

The **Haus des Jugendrechts Mannheim** is responsible for dealing with criminal offences committed by children and adolescents which were perpetrated within the urban area of Mannheim. Here the police, public prosecutor's office and youth welfare work cross-divisionally on criminal proceedings under one roof.

The youth welfare during criminal proceedings (JuHiS) is a specialist field of the Youth Welfare Office of Mannheim and is responsible for all adolescents and young people of legal age up to the age of 21 residing in the city area of Mannheim who have been accused of a criminal act or who have committed a criminal act.

The specialists for youth welfare during criminal proceedings support adolescents and their parents as well as young people of legal age during the entire criminal proceedings, i.e. prior to and during court proceedings and after a conviction. Here they check whether the young person requires assistance through Youth Welfare.

Amongst other things, the JuHiS have the task of informing the public prosecutors and the court on the personality, the development and the social environment of the young person. Because the measures determined by the Juvenile Court should mainly have an educational effect on the rest of a young person's life, the Youth Welfare makes appropriate suggestions to the court during the criminal proceedings.

The youth welfare during criminal proceedings represents a neutral support and assistance for the young person and, if applicable, their family, throughout the entire criminal proceedings.

## Specialists for youth welfare in criminal proceedings:

- Counsel children below the age of criminal responsibility and their parents
- Inform young offenders and their parents on the process of criminal proceedings involving juveniles and on possible offers of assistance
- Speak with young offenders on the background and triggers for the criminal act
- Accompany adolescents and young people who are of legal age to court proceedings and offer an educationally-expedient suggestion for measures to be taken in court.
- Assist young offenders, amongst other things in case of problems with family, friends, housing, school and training
- Visit adolescents and young people who are of legal age and in custody for preparation of the court proceedings, and when already in the penal system, for the preparation of release and reintegration
- Organising and mediation of the court and public prosecutor's orders, amongst other things community work, social training courses and criminal-victim compensation at different counselling centres, and much more