



Delinquency Dispositions: Purposes and Considerations

April 21, 2026



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Statutory Purposes of Disposition

“to design an appropriate plan to

meet the needs of the juvenile **and**

to achieve the objectives of the State in exercising jurisdiction, including the protection of the public.”

G.S. 7B-2500

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Statutory Purposes of Disposition

"The COURT should develop a disposition in each case that:

- (1) Promotes **public safety**;
- (2) Emphasizes **accountability and responsibility of both** the parent, guardian, or custodian and the juvenile for the juvenile's conduct; and
- (3) Provides the appropriate **consequences, treatment, training, and rehabilitation** to assist the juvenile toward becoming a nonoffending, responsible, and productive member of the community."

G.S. 7B-2500

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Statutory Considerations

"the COURT SHALL select a disposition that is designed to

protect the public **and**

to meet the needs and best interests of the juvenile, based upon:"

G.S. 7B-2501(c)

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Statutory Considerations

- (1) Seriousness of the offense
- (2) Need to hold the juvenile accountable
- (3) Importance of protecting public safety
- (4) Degree of culpability indicated by the circumstances of the particular case; and
- (5) Rehabilitative and treatment needs of the juvenile indicated by a risk and needs assessment

G.S. 7B-2501(c)

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FINDINGS			
The most serious offense before the Court today, which provides the basis for disposition, is:			
Adjudication Date	Offense (with statute number)	F/M	Class
Based on the evidence presented, the Court makes the following Findings of Fact:			
1. The juvenile delinquency history level is ☐ low (0-1 point). ☐ medium (2-3 points). ☐ high (4+ points). 2. The Court received and considered ☐ predisposition report ☐ risk assessment ☐ needs assessment ☐ and incorporates the contents of ☐ predisposition report ☐ risk assessment ☐ needs assessment by reference. <i>(If the report is incorporated, a copy of the report MUST be attached to the order.)</i> ☐ 3. If ordered under G.S. 7B-2502(a2), the Court reviewed and considered a comprehensive clinical assessment or equivalent mental health assessment. ☐ 4. If a care review team was ordered to convene under G.S. 7B-2502(a3), the Court has reviewed and considered the recommendation plan submitted by the care review team in determining the juvenile's disposition in accordance with G.S. 7B-2501(c). ☐ 5. The Court finds beyond a reasonable doubt that the juvenile was adjudicated for an offense that was committed as part of criminal gang activity as defined in G.S. 7B-2508.1. As a result, the juvenile shall receive a disposition that is one level higher than would otherwise be provided for the class of offense and delinquency history level: G.S. 7B-2508(g1) ☐ 6. Other Findings: <i>(continue on attached page(s) if necessary)</i> NOTE: State any findings regarding the seriousness of the offense(s); the need to hold the juvenile accountable; the importance of protecting the public; the degree of the juvenile's culpability; the juvenile's rehabilitative and treatment needs; and available and appropriate resources. Also use this space for any findings that are required to support a particular disposition, such as a finding of the juvenile's ability to pay if the Court is ordering restitution.			

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Written Findings Required

- Appellate courts have consistently held that the trial court must make findings demonstrating that it considered the five 7B-2501(c) factors

In re V.M., 211 N.C. App. 389, 391–92, 712S.E.2d 213, 215 (2011)

In re I.W.P., 259 N.C. App. 254, (2018)

Matter of N.M., 290 N.C.App. 482, 484 (2023)

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Written Findings Required

- Findings that only incorporate the predisposition report and risk and needs assessment are insufficient

In re I.W.P., 259 N.C. App. 254, (2018)

In re J.A.D., 283 N.C. App. 8, (2022)

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