

NC Association of District Court Judges Summer Conference 2026



Issue Most Likely to
Result in Vacated
Disposition





Insufficient Findings in Disposition Order



Written findings must show that the court considered all factors in G.S. 7B-12501(c):

(1) The seriousness of the offense; (2) The need to hold the juvenile accountable; (3) The importance of protecting the public safety; (4) The degree of culpability indicated by the circumstances of the particular case; and (5) The rehabilitative and treatment needs of the juvenile indicated by a risk and needs assessment





Insufficient Findings in Disposition Order

Checking the boxes to incorporate the predisposition report and risk and need assessment is not sufficient



Matter of K.C.G., 926 S.E.2d 216 (Table) (2026)
Matter of J.A.T.M., 926 S.E.2d 474 (Table) (2026)
Controlling case: *In re I.W.P.*, 259 N.C.App. 254 (2018)



Biggest Issue Not Decided





Is Mandatory Transfer Constitutional?

Order was not a final
order

Denied cert

- *In re D.J.*, 926 S.E.2d 215 (Table)(2026)



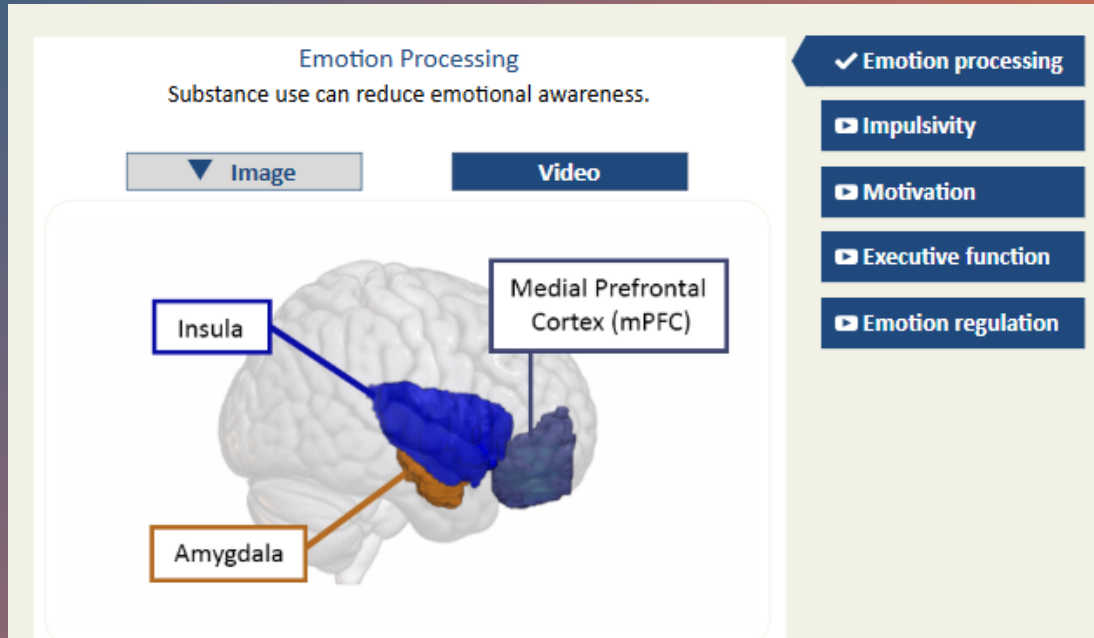
New Resource
Most Likely to
Contain Words Not
in Black's Law
Dictionary



Bridging Neuroscience and Juvenile Justice

Online learning
module: substance use
and adolescence

https://www.sog.unc.edu/sog_modules/bridging-neuroscience-and-juvenile-justice/content/index.html



Evidence-Based Programs for Adolescent Functioning

This bench card was created as a companion to the "Bridging Neuroscience" and "Juvenile Justice Module," a digital lesson created by an interdisciplinary team of experts to explain the impact of adolescent substance use on the brain and the implications of those impacts for dispositional decision-making for justice-involved youth. It can be used to understand which therapeutic interventions best support improvements in functioning in the areas often impacted by adolescent substance use, including emotion regulation, emotion processing, impulsivity, motivation, and executive functioning. The digital lesson can be accessed at https://www.sog.unc.edu/sog_modules/bridging-neuroscience-and-juvenile-justice/content/index.html.

This work was supported by a grant from the Dana Foundation.



School of
Government

Most Likely to
Cause Confusion





Juvenile Jurisdiction and Transfer Laws

Let's Review...



Threshold Questions to Ask

Age at offense?

Offense date?

Offense charged?



Offenses at
16/17 and
on or after
December
1, 2024



Original Criminal Jurisdiction

Chapter 20 offenses

Cases with Class A – E felonies

Previous criminal conviction
other than Ch. 20 MDM not
involving impaired driving

Emancipated

Armed Forces member





Offenses at
16/17 and
on or after
December
1, 2024



Original Juvenile Jurisdiction

Cases with top charge
Class F felony or less

Indirect contempt





Offenses at
16/17 and
on or after
December
1, 2024

Transfer

Class F – G felonies:
mandatory on PC finding
or indictment return
(unless prosecutor
declines)

- Class H – I felonies:
discretionary (PC,
request to transfer,
transfer hearing)





Offenses at
16/17 and
on or after
December
1, 2024



Removal

Cases with Class A – E
felony that began in
criminal court

Required on joint motion
of DA and defense

Case moves to juvenile
jurisdiction





Offenses at
16/17
between
12/1 19
and
11/30/24



Original Criminal Jurisdiction

Chapter 20 offenses

Previous criminal conviction
other than Ch. 20 MDM not
involving impaired driving

Emancipated

Armed Forces member





Offenses at
16/17
between
12/1 19
and
11/30/24

Original Juvenile Jurisdiction

Any charge that is not in
Chapter 20

Indirect contempt



Offenses at
16/17
between
12/1 19
and
11/30/24

Transfer

Class A – C felonies: mandatory on PC finding or indictment return

Class D – G felonies: mandatory on PC finding or indictment return (unless prosecutor declines)

Class H – I felonies: discretionary (PC, request to transfer, transfer hearing)

Best Opportunity to Provide Input



