

Criminal Law Definition and Status Offense Definitions of Delinquency

Ohio defines a delinquent child as:

- 1) Any child, except a juvenile traffic offender, who violates any law of this state or the United States, or any ordinance of a political subdivision of the state, that would be an offense if committed by an adult;
- 2) Any child who violates any lawful order of the court. . .;
- 3) Any child who violates [prohibitions against purchasing or owning a firearm or handgun (Section 2923.21.1)];
- 4) Any child who is a habitual truant and who previously has been adjudicated an unruly child for being habitually truant;
- 5) Any child who is a chronic truant.

Ohio Chapter 2151.02.2 defines an unruly child (i.e., status offender) as:

- (A) Any child who does not submit to the reasonable control of the child's parents, teachers, guardian, or custodian, by reason of being wayward or habitually truant;
- (B) Any child who is an habitual truant from school and who previously has not been adjudicated an unruly child for being an habitual truant;
- (C) Any child who behaves in a manner as to injure or endanger the child's own health or morals or the health of morals of others;
- (D) Any child who violates a law . . . that is applicable only to a child.

Source: Ohio Revised Code. (2005). Sections 2151.02.2 and 2152.02.