**You Decide**

**MASON**  is four years old. He pocketed money he found on the counter at a neighbor's house.

**?** *Questions to think about:*

* *Can the child distinguish right from wrong?*
* *Is the child capable of forming criminal intent?*
* *Is the child capable of understanding the consequence of actions?*
1. What, if anything should be done? Why?
2. Should anything be done if Mason is six years old?
3. What if Mason is eight years old?
4. What is Mason is eight and he found the money in a kitchen drawer?
5. What if Mason is 14 years old?

 **ZOE** is seven years old. She has two older brothers who are teaching her to throw. She practices all of the time. Yesterday she was throwing balls at a target near her

neighbor's house. When she missed the target, the ball hit the house. She threw a ball as hard as she could and it broke a window. Her mother screamed "You are in big trouble!" When the neighbor returned home, he called the police.

1. What should be done?
2. What if Zoe's mother told her to stop several times but Zoe ignored her?
3. What if Zoe is always getting into trouble and the police have come to visit her home before?
4. What if her parents are rarely home and don't seem to care?

**JAYDEN** and several of his 6th grade friends were riding their bikes around the neighborhood on Friday, March 15 at about 6:00 p.m. A few kids from a different neighborhood rode by Jayden and his friends. They stopped to bully Jayden and his friends and dared them to throw stones at Mr. Wiley’s windows. Mr. Wiley is an old man who often tells the children to stay off his property. Several windows were broken, and when Mr. Wiley ran out of his house to stop the children, he recognized Jayden and called the police. The other kids road off. The State has now charged Jayden with the crime of vandalism, a common property crime.

1. Should Jayden be held responsible?
2. Is Jayden a delinquent?
3. What should be done?

**JESSE** On January 7, at 1 p.m. many firecrackers exploded in an empty locker at Jefferson School, causing great damage to the lockers and the walls. Luckily, no one was injured.

**?** *Questions to think about:*

1. *Will the child be helped by the juvenile system?*
2. *Is the public safety served by keeping the child in the juvenile system?*

Mr. Stuart, the assistant Principal, searched the other lockers and found a large grocery bag full of unexploded firecrackers in a locker assigned to Jesse Sunderson. Jesse, age 16, has been charged with possession of firecrackers and damage to property. He has been a truant before but not involved in other criminal acts.

1. Should Jesse be treated as a delinquent?
2. What should be done?

**TONY** is a familiar face. He has appeared before you on several occasions. He does not get along with his parents and often runs away. He also hates school and is a truant. When he has appeared before you before, he has been required to do community service and has promised to change his behavior. He has not kept his promise. Recently, he allegedly went on a crime spree, smashing the car windows of 63 cars in a nearby neighborhood. Tony is 17 years old.

1. Should Tony be treated as a delinquent?
2. What should be done?

**TASHA**, age 16, has been involved in criminal behavior on many occasions. She has assaulted people, destroyed property, and has many motor vehicle violations. Tasha has spent much of the past five years in juvenile institutions. She is now before the court because she beat an old woman with a crowbar during a robbery. The woman is in the hospital in a coma. The doctors do not expect her to live.

1. Should Tasha be treated as a delinquent?
2. What should be done?