

## CRIMINAL SOCIOLOGY, ETHICS, AND HUMAN RELATIONS

### PART FOUR

#### JUVENILE DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

##### TERMS TO PONDER

- **Delinquency** refers to any action; course or conduct that deviates from acts approved by the majority of people. It is a description of those acts that do not conform to the accepted rules, norms and mores of the society.
- **Juvenile Crime** denotes various offenses committed by children or youths under the age of 18, such acts are sometimes referred to as juvenile delinquency.
- **Delinquent Person** - one who repeatedly commits an act that is against the norms or mores observed by the society. When a person habitually commits an act that is not in accordance with the rules or policies of a community where he belongs, he is considered a delinquent.
- **Juvenile Delinquents** - young people who are regarded as immature or one whose mental as well as emotional faculties are not fully developed thus making them incapable of taking full responsibility of their actions.
- **Juvenile Delinquency** - refers to an anti-social act or behavior, which deviates from the norms of the society. It also refers to an act that violates simple rules and regulations, committed by minors, punishable by a short period of imprisonment or a small fine.
- **Juvenile Delinquent** - Those persons adjudged to be delinquent. A juvenile delinquent repeatedly violates the norms or the rules and regulations of a given society. Nowadays, he is more appropriately referred to as child in conflict with the law.
- **R.A 9344** - is a law which protects the rights of children especially those who are the Children in Conflict with the law (CICL). It gives opportunity for them to be reinstated in our community and to be given a chance to change to a better person in the future.
- **Child** - refers to a person under the age of eighteen (18) years.

- **Children at risk** - refers to children who are vulnerable to and at the risk of committing criminal offenses because of personal, family and social circumstances.
- **Child in Conflict with the Law (CICL)** - refers to a child who is alleged as, accused of, or adjudged as, having committed an offense under Philippine laws.
- **Status Offenses** - refers to offenses which discriminate only against a child, while an adult does not suffer any penalty for committing similar acts. These shall include curfew violations, truancy, parental disobedience and the like.
- **Dependent Child** – One who is without a parent, guardian, or custodian, or one whose parents, guardian or other custodian for good cause desires to be relieved of his care and custody; and is dependent upon the public support.
- **Abandoned Child** – One who has no proper parental care or guardianship, or one whose parents or guardians have deserted him for a period of at least six continuous months.
- **Neglected Child** – is one whose basic needs have been deliberately unattended or inadequately attended.
- **Physical Neglect** – When the child is malnourished ill-clad and without proper care.
- **Emotional Neglect** – This exist when the child is maltreated, raped or seduced, exploited, overworked, or made to work under conditions not conducive to good health, or are made to beg in the streets or public places, or when children are in mortal danger, or exposed to gambling, prostitution and other vices.
- **Status Offense** - Status offense is behavior that is unlawful for children, even though the same behavior is legal for adults. What transforms the conduct into a public offense is the age of the actor. The most common status offenses are truancy, running away from home, incorrigibility (disobeying parents), truancy, curfew violations, and alcohol possession by minors.

## HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENTS

- **16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> Century** - children were viewed as non-persons until the 1700's. They did not receive special treatment or recognition. Discipline then is what we now call abuse.



- **18<sup>th</sup> Century** - Age of Enlightenment - a new cultural transition. This period of history is sometimes known as the beginning of reason and humanism. People began to see children as flowers, who needed nurturing in order to bloom. It was the invention of childhood, love and nurturing instead of beatings to stay in line. Children had finally begun to emerge as a distinct group. It started with the upper-class people, who was allowed to attend colleges and universities.
- **19<sup>th</sup> Century** - limited responsibility was ascribed to children under the age of 16. Punishment for juvenile offenders has been often severe until the 19th century.
- **20<sup>th</sup> Century** - juvenile offenders were often treated as adults. When juvenile offenders are dealt with more formally, they are tried by a dedicated juvenile court, having as little contact with the mainstream system as possible. There is considerable emphasis on parental responsibility, and the parents may be ordered to pay the juvenile's fine, or be liable to pay a sum of money if the child is in trouble again.
- **Hammurabi's Code** – the oldest known code four thousand years ago dating from 2270 B.C. that takes account of many conducts, some pertains to youths.
- **King Athelstan of England** – proclaimed that *“any thief over 12 years old received the punishments of death if he stole more than 12 pence.”* The severity of such punishments was eventually to provide that, *“no one under 16 years could be put to death unless he resisted or ran away.”*
- **Pope Clement XI** – in 1704 in Rome, established a center for the correction of profligate (immoral) youths, so they could be taught to become useful citizens.
- **Marine Society of England** – 1756 established a special institution for the reformation of juvenile offenders.
- **House of Refuge** – 1825, established for juveniles which was the predecessor of the American Reformatory School. The development of this movement had coincident with the humanitarian outlook of the Western World at the time, and it emphasized that juveniles should be reformed instead of punishment.
- **Anglo-Saxon Law** – it practiced to accept the proposition that children under certain age, usually seven years were incapable of distinguishing whether their actions were right or wrong.



## NATURE OF DELINQUENCY

- Incidence of delinquency accelerates at age 13 and peaks at 17.
- The prevalence (how widespread youth crime is in society) of different kinds of offending at each age but also about the percentage of persons initiating and terminating. Termination at about 18 or 19.
- The gap between male and female involvements in status and non-victimizing offenses are smaller than of the serious types.
- Larger proportions of boys than girls report having broken the law more frequently.

## TYPES OF DELINQUENTS

- **Occasional Delinquents** - delinquents participate in a group.
- **Gang Delinquents** – generally commits the most serious infractions, is most often sent to a correctional institution, and most often continuous in a pattern of semi-professional criminal behavior as an adult.
- **Maladjusted Delinquents** – activities stem from personality disturbance rather than gang activity or slum residence. They are “weak ego”, the “asocial”; experienced early and severe parental rejection.

## CATEGORIES OF STATUS OFFENSES

- **School Truancy** – A pattern or repeated or habitual unauthorized absences from school by any juvenile subject to compulsory education laws.
- **Repeated disregard or misuse of Lawful Parental Authority** – Repeated disobedient behavior on the part of the juvenile or a pattern of repeated unreasonable demands on the part of parents creates a situation of family conflict clearly evidencing a need for services.
- **Repeated Running Away from Home** – Running away is a juvenile’s unauthorized absences from home.
- **Repeated Use of Intoxicating Beverages** – Repeated possession and or consumption of intoxication beverages by a juvenile.
- **Tender Years delinquency** - acts committed by a juvenile younger than 9 years of age.



## ADOLESCENCE, PEERS AND DELINQUENCY

- **Adolescence** – transition stage between childhood and adulthood.
- **Peer Group** – affected by the growing division between young people and their parents. This division includes differences in social activities political interests, clothing styles, music, etc.
- **Gangs** – are a friendship group of adolescents who share common interests, with a more or less clearly defined territory, in which most of the members live. They are committed to defending one another, the territory, and the gang name in the status-setting fights that occur in school and on the streets.

## CHARACTERISTICS OF A GANG

- **Organization** – creation of an administrative body
- **Leadership** – gangs have established leaders; like a militaristic or Mafia-style model – the top authority positions analogous to that of the highest-ranking officer in a military unit; rule by force by the leader who is usually older, stronger and revered by the gang's members.
- **Turf** – particular territory or neighborhood crossing turf boundaries and entering another gang's territory.
- **Cohesiveness** – share privacies with one another than their non-delinquents to believe they can trust their friends and have the trust of their friends.
- **Purpose** – delinquent gangs have been typically thought to exist for the purpose of committing offense.

## SCHOOL AND DELINQUENCY

- **Parental Involvement in School** – schools encourage parents school visit; involve parents in fund raising events; and host social gatherings for parents and children.
- **School Related Violence** – conflicts between teachers and students; students versus students – physical injury; killing.

## DRUGS, YOUTH AND DELINQUENCY

- **Adolescent Drug Use** – marijuana, *shabu*, etc. – youth interacting with members of certain groups, people learn definitions of behavior as good or bad, exposed to role models; approval of drug use by peers; and the perceived positive or pleasurable effects of the drug itself.



- **Drug Crisis** - more the adolescent uses drugs, the more likely it is that he will come to the attention of juvenile justice system; the more the adolescent uses drugs, including alcohol, the more that he become physically and psychologically dependent on drugs. The more an adolescent is physically and psychologically dependent on drugs, the more likely it is that he will commit delinquent acts to support the drug habit. The more an adolescent is physically and psychologically dependent on drugs, the more likely it is that he will become involved in highly delinquent peer culture. The more an adolescent commits delinquent acts and is that he will be adjudicated delinquent and be placed under the supervision of the juvenile court.
- **Female Delinquency** – females are less delinquent but commit much the similar kinds of offenses as males do, such as child prostitution, drug abusing, truancy etc.

### THEORIES ON JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

- **Social Disorganization Theory** - Maintains that social indicators present in a society such as large number of single parents, high percentage of out of school youth, unemployment, breakdown of social values and other reasons are influential to the occurrence of juvenile delinquency and crime.
- **Cultural Deviance Theory** - A theory that views crime as one resulting from man's cultural values that permit and allow crime and delinquency to happen or even demand behavior that violate the laws.
- **Cultural Transmission** - The handling down of delinquency as a socially learned behavior, transmitted from one generation to the next specially among depressed and disorganized urban areas.
- **Culture Conflict Theory** - Explains that different groups have different conduct norms, and the conduct norm of one group may be in conflict with those of another. Adherence to one's own norm would violate the norm of another group.
- **Conflict Theory** - This theory states that individuals band together in group because they are social animals with needs that are best served through collective action. People constantly clash as they try to advance the interest of their group over those of the other, thus resulting to conflict.



- **Rational Choice Theory**- Classical criminology stresses that causes of crime lie within the individual offender, rather than in their external environment. For classicists, offenders are motivated by rational self-interest, and the importance of free will and personal responsibility is emphasized. Rational choice theory is the clearest example of this approach.
- **Social Disorganization Theory** - Current positivist approaches generally focus on the Culture, which would produce the breakdown of family relationships and community, competing values, and increasing individualism.
- **Strain theory** - holds that crime is caused by the difficulty those in poverty have in achieving socially valued goals by legitimate means. As those with, for instance, poor educational attainment has difficulty achieving wealth and status by securing well paid employment, they are more likely to use criminal means to obtain these goals.

**Innovation** - individuals who accept socially approved goals, but not necessarily the socially approved means.

**Retreatism** - those who reject socially approved goals and the means for acquiring them.

**Ritualism** - those who buy into a system of socially approved means, but lose sight of the goals. Merton believed that drug users are in this category.

**Conformity** - conformance to the system's means and goals.

**Rebellion** - people who negate socially approved goals and means by creating a new system of acceptable goals and means.

- **Sub cultural theory** – the inability of youths to achieve socially valued status and goals results in groups of young people forming deviant or delinquent subcultures, which have their own values and norms. Within these groups criminal behavior may actually be valued, and increase a youth’s status. The notion of delinquent subcultures is relevant for crimes that are not economically motivated.
- **Differential association** – the theory of Differential association also deals with young people in a group context, and looks at how peer pressure and the existence of gangs could lead them into crime. It suggests young people are motivated to commit crimes by delinquent peers, and learn criminal skills from them.



- **Labeling theory** - states that once young people have been labeled as criminal, they are more likely to offend. The idea is that once labelled as deviant a young person may accept that role, and be more likely to associate with others who have been similarly labelled. Labelling theorists say that male children from poor families are more likely to be labelled deviant, and that this may partially explain why there are more lower-class young male offenders.
- **Mental Disorders** - Conduct disorder usually develops during childhood and manifests itself during an adolescence life. Some juvenile behavior is attributed to the diagnosable disorder known as conduct disorder. Adolescence who exhibit conduct disorder also show a lack of empathy and disregard for societal norms.
- **Family environment** - Family factors which may have an influence on offending include; the level of parental supervision, the way parents discipline a child, parental conflict or separation, criminal parents or siblings, parental abuse or neglect, and the quality of the parent-child relationship. Children brought up by lone parents are more likely to start offending than those who live with two natural parents, however once the attachment a child feels towards their parent(s) and the level of parental supervision are taken into account, children in single parent families are no more likely to offend than others.

### FACTORS THAT INFLUENCE JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

- **Family Structure** – it is a common assumption that children get their behaviors from their family and their friends. Crimes are severe but usually juvenile acts such as vandalism, abuse, or breaking into another’s house.
- **Parenting** - is the rearing of a child or children, especially the care, love, and guidance given by a parent. Anything less than this just may be the reason why so many innocent kids have turned to juvenile delinquency as their way of living their lives.
- **Disease** - such as alcoholism or diabetes, parental delinquency makes the child more prone to such behaviors. A lack of care for their children, often times means that the parents have a lack of care for one another.
- **Separation of Parents** - like divorce, has a direct effect on the rise of juvenile delinquency. It could be because they only have one set of eyes to provide guidance over them, allowing them plenty of time





to possibly hangout with the “bad influences” of the world. This leads into a third perspective on what causes teenage delinquency and why it has risen so frequently in the past two decades.

- **Child’s birth order in the family** - birth order affects the behavior more likely among middle children than first and last children. The first receiver’s individual attention and affection of parents while the last child benefits from parent’s experience of raising children, as well as from presence of sibling, who serve as models. In some cases, the delinquent child is the first or the last child.
- **Family Size** - Parents in larger families tend to have more difficulty disciplining and supervising their children than do parents with smaller families.
- **Quality of Home Life** - Poor family home life, measured by marital adjustment and harmony within the home, affects the rate of delinquent behavior among children more than whether or not the family is intact. Happiness of marriage and good marital relationships and strong family cohesiveness is the key whether or not children become delinquents.

### MODELS OF FAMILY LIFE

- **Corporate Model** - The father is the chief executive officer. The mother, operating officer, implements the father’s policy and managing the staff (children who in turn have privileges and responsibilities based on their seniority). The father makes the most and he is the final word. In the corporate family, intimacy runs on the profit motive.
- **Team Model** – The father is the head; the mother is the chief of the training table and head cheerleader. The children, suffering frequent performance anxiety, play the rules and stay in shape with conformity calisthenics. In the team family, competition is the name of the game and winning is everything.
- **Military Model** – The father is the rector or head master, in charge of training school minds and bodies; the mother, the dorm counselor who oversees the realm emotion, illness, good works and bedwetting. The children are dutiful students. The parents have nothing left to learn, but to teach and test.



- **Boarding School Model** – the father is the school director or head master, the faculty serves mother or an appointed lady ward who oversees board and lodging, school activities and the student boarders represent the children of the family, who are under monitor for actions and behavior that fitted the boarding house or school rules and regulations.
- **Theatrical Model** – The producer or theater director plays the role of the father. The mother, the stagehands, also acts the roles of girls and boys. No writer is necessary because the lines are scripted, the role are sex stereotypes, the plot predictable.

### TYPES OF FAMILY STRUCTURES

- **Nuclear Family** - is the traditional type of family structure. It consists of two parents and children. It is considered as being the ideal type of family structure in which to raise children. Children in nuclear families receive strength and stability from the two-parent structure and generally have more opportunities due to the financial ease of two adults.
- **Single Parent Family** - consists of one parent raising one or more children on his own. This family may include a single mother with her children, a single father with his kids, or a single person with their kids.
- **Extended Family** - consists of two or more adults who are related, either by blood or marriage, living in the same home. This family includes many relatives living together and working toward common goals, such as raising the children and keeping up with the household duties. Many extended families include cousins, aunts or uncles and grandparents living together.
- **Childless Family** - there are couples who either cannot or choose not to have children. The childless family does not meet traditional standards set by society. Childless families consist of two partners living and working together. Sometimes, couple just take on the responsibility of pet ownership or have extensive contact with their nieces and nephews.
- **Step or Blended Family** – type of family where marriages end in divorce in countries that allows divorce. Some individuals choose to get remarried creating a step or blended family which involves two separate families merging into one new unit. It consists of a new husband, wife, or spouse and their children from previous marriages or relationships.



- **Grandparent Family** - grandparents are the one raising their grandchildren for a variety of reasons or when the parents are not present in the child's life. This could be due to parents' death, addiction, abandonment or being unfit parents.

## JUVENILE CRIME STUDIES

- **Discipline in the Home** - Inadequate supervision and discipline in the home have been commonly cited to explain delinquent behavior. The type of discipline employed in the home affects delinquent behavior, for strict and punitive; lax and erratic; unfair discipline.
- **Family Rejection** - Studies found a significant relationship between parental rejection and delinquent behavior.
- **Broken Home** - This does not only refer to the separation of parents leaving their children behind, but also include the presence of both parents but who irresponsible that children experience constant quarrel in the home. Children born to single mothers are likely to be raised in economically overburdened households and to receive less adequate prenatal and postnatal care. The teenage mothers have to leave school and to forgo further job training and other opportunities for economic advancement.
- **Single mothers** – facing problems of task overload, single mothers usually find themselves difficulty to financial starts
- **Parents Skills** – lack of parental skills. Parents need to be aware of the child's performance in school as well as school attendance. The possibility of drugs or alcohol use and the activities that the child is involved with friends. Good supervision fosters appropriate parental reaction to anti-social and delinquency promoting circumstances.

## PHYSICAL ABUSERS

- **Parentally Incompetent Abuser** - the practice of disciplining their children in the same way they are disciplined. But as the norms about what constitute acceptable discipline.
- **Situational Abuser** - some parents only abuses their children when they confronted with a particular situation. They are non-abusive but “fly off the handle when same particular circumstances develop.



- **Accidental Abuser** - exercise poor judgment in their parenting decisions. Administering enemas to children to discipline them (Separated parents).
- **Subcultural Abuser** - a group of people whom a number of values, norms and attitudes in common. In some subculture, the members believe that committing violence against children has inherent positive value. *“Placing high expectations on the child and punishing him if he fails.”*
- **Institutionally Prescribed Abusers** - sometimes abuse occurs in institutional because of beliefs on which these institutions are grounded. *“Children who misbehaved in the school are locked in the closet and denied food.” “Children as young as one year are beaten for urinating in their diapers”*

## EMOTIONAL ABUSE

Encompasses the lack of love and affection, as well as deliberate withholding of contact and approval, it may include a steady diet of put downs, humiliation, name calling, scape-goating, lying, demanding excessive responsibilities, unrealistic expectations.

- **Psychopathological Perspective** - this characterized as emotionally disturbed and mentally deficient children with poor impulse controls.
- **Normal Healthy Perspective** - Running away is nothing special; It merely an attempt by adolescence to search for adventures or to find new experiences or having excitement. It is just another aspect of transition from childhood to adulthood.
- **Sociological Perspective** - running away is a response by adolescents to problems and stress in the home. Children run away from home because of abuse or neglect in the family.

## SEXUAL ABUSE

Any sexual activity that involves physical contact or sexual arousal between non-married members of the family. Incest is intra family sexual abuse which is perpetrated on child’s family group and includes not only sexual intercourse but also any act designed to stimulate the child sexual, or to use a child sexually. Or to use a child for sexual stimulation, either of the perpetrator or of another person Father-



daughter incest; stepfather to stepdaughter incest; brother-sister incest; mother-son.

R.A. 7610 states that sexual abuse is any behavior or a sexual of a nature towards a child, including one or more of the following:

- Touching or invitation to touch for sexual purposes, or intercourse (vaginal or anal).
- Menacing or threatening sexual acts, obscene gestures, obscene communications.
- Sexual intercourse to the child's body or behavior by words or gestures.
- Requiring that the child expose his body for sexual purposes.
- Deliberate exposure of the child to sexual activity or material. If further states that sexual exploitation includes permitting, encouraging or requiring a child to engage in:
- Conduct of sexual nature for the stimulation, gratification, profit or self-interest of another person who is in a position of trust or authority, or with whom the child is in a relationship of dependency.
- Prostitution
- Production of material of a pornographic nature.

## **NEGLECT**

Refers to disregarding the physical, emotional, or oral needs of children or adolescents. Neglect results to:

- Malnourished, ill-clad, dirty, without proper shelter and sleeping arrangement
- Unsupervised, unattended children
- Denied normal experiences that produce feelings of being loved, wanted, secured and worthy.
- Failure to attend classes regularly
- Exploited (to make use of selfishly). Overworked
- Emotionally disturbed as result of constant friction in the home, marital discord (inharmonious relationship), mentally ill parents.
- Exposed to unwholesome and demoralizing circumstances.

## **JUVENILE DELINQUENCY PREVENTION**

- Help prevent delinquency in your child by keeping him or her in school. Minor offenses, such as truancy, can lead to more serious offenses. Meet with school officials, if necessary, and make clear to your child your expectations about his or her school attendance



- Exercise adequate supervision. Juveniles rarely commit serious offenses while under the supervision of an adult. Seek the assistance of a local social services agency if you feel you cannot control your child. Attend parenting classes, or join a local support group if you are having trouble understanding how to exercise discipline.
- Educate your child about the dangers of drugs. Drug offenses and addiction can have serious consequences for your child. Let your child know you will not tolerate drug use. Stay informed about drug use trends in children.
- Get your child involved in after-school recreational activities, sports, community service or other positive activities. Young people with positive outlets for their energy are more likely to do well in school and avoid the problems of delinquency.

### **PERTINENT LAWS THAT PROTECTS THE RIGHTS OF A CHILD**

- **Republic Act 9344** or the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act is the first law that protects the rights of children in conflict with the law.
- **Republic Act No. 7610** – Special Protection of Children Against Child Abuse, Exploitation and Discrimination Act.
- **Republic Act 9208** or the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2003
- **Republic Act 9262** or the Anti-Violence Against Women and Their Children Act of 2004
- **Restorative Justice** - is the appropriate way of resolving conflicts with the maximum involvement of the victim, offender and the community with the end goal of healing and reconciliation and reintegration of the offender into the society.

### **Q&A IN RELATION TO JUVENILE CRIME**

- ***Why raise the age of criminal exemption from 9 to 15 years old?*** Fifteen (15) years old is within the stage of adolescence – the transition age which is characterized by curiosity, try-outs, and identity crisis. These circumstances expose them to risky and delinquent behavior. At this age, children are not yet emotionally stable and their social judgment has not yet matured. This has been confirmed by existing studies on “Arrested Development: The Level of Discernment of Out-of-School Children and Youth” conducted by the Philippine Action for Youth Offenders (PAYO) and “Beyond Innocence: A Study on the Age of Discernment of Filipino Children” by the Council for the Welfare of Children.



- **Will CICL who are criminally exempt just go scot free?** No. The child will undergo an intervention program as agreed with the social worker, or CICL and his/her family and the victim. The program will include activities and services that will help the CICL in gaining insight into his behavior, attitude and values and redirect counter-productive behavior patterns and anti-social attitudes into more productive and constructive ones. The CICL and his/her family will regularly report to the social worker and adhere to the agreed intervention program.
- **What is Intervention?** Intervention refers to a series of activities designed to address issues that caused the child to commit an offense. It may take the form of an individualized treatment program which include counseling, skills training, education, and other activities that will enhance his/her psychological, emotional and psycho-social well-being. The intervention program involves the case management process to include assessment, planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. This will ensure careful and in-depth study of the case to ensure its proper handling and the provision of appropriate programs and services.
- **What is Diversion?** It refers to an alternative process in determining the responsibility and treatment of children in conflict with the law without resorting to formal court proceedings. Its mechanisms include conferencing, mediation and counseling. The Diversion Program shall include adequate socio-cultural and psychological responses and services for the child.
- **Why should children at risk and children in conflict with the law be kept out of the formal Criminal Justice System?** Several years of experience shows that the process of going through the formal criminal justice system can be harmful to children in many ways and make them likely to remain criminals. To protect their physical and psychological well-being and their development to the maximum extent possible, the cases should be diverted away from the criminal justice system and to alternatives that benefit the child, the child's family and society in a better way
- **What will happen to children in conflict with the law who commit heinous crimes such as rape or murder?** The treatment given to the children in conflict with the law depends first on the age (if 15 years old or below or above 15 but below 18 years old); second on the act of discernment; and third on the penalty imposed on the offense committed.



If the children in conflict with the law are 15 years of age OR above 15 but below 18 years old at the time of commission of the offense, and found to have acted without discernment, the child is exempt from criminal responsibility regardless of the nature of the crime committed. However, if the child is above 15 but below 18 who acted with discernment committed an offense with an imposable penalty of more than six years imprisonment (as in cases of rape or murder), the law provides that the child shall undergo court proceedings. When brought to court, the child may be placed under suspended sentence and be subjected to rehabilitation programs.

The social worker prepares an assessment report on the absence or presence of discernment in the commitment of a crime. Using a set of tested and validated tools in assessing discernment, the social worker used the following as the bases for the report: (i) facts and circumstances surrounding the case (Rule 34 c.1); (ii) educational level and performance of the child in school (Rule 34 c.2); (iii) appearance, attitude and the child's demeanor before, during and after the commission of the offense (Rule 34 c.3); and (iv) assessment of a psychologist or psychiatrist which the social worker may request.

The child in conflict with the law may even be confined, by court order, in a facility for minors, where children are made aware that inappropriate behavior on their part cannot go unpunished and that they must account for wrongful acts.

Children do not go scot-free but must account for their acts in a child appropriate process under the juvenile justice system. Justice is not denied to victims of wrongful acts committed by minors. The victims and their families can and shall obtain justice through the Juvenile Justice system.

**- End of Par 4 -**

