

Types of Cases – Other Case Types

Other types of actions include:

Adoption. A legal proceeding in which a person takes another child or adult as one's own child.

Emancipation. An action that a minor child age 16 or 17 files to ask the court to give the minor the legal status of an adult for many purposes. An emancipated person has the legal right to do certain things that an adult can do (right to self-control, the right to choose where to live, the right to receive and control one's earnings, to sue or be sued, and the capacity to contract) but not buy or drink alcohol or use tobacco.

Juvenile Delinquency. In juvenile delinquency cases, a child is alleged to have broken a law. Unless the child (juvenile) is waived into adult court to be prosecuted by district attorneys because their crime is very serious, the case is handled by the [Division of Juvenile Justice \(DJJ\)](#) in the [Department of Health and Social Services](#). In the least serious juvenile cases, the juvenile probation officer works with the parents, victims, schools, community groups, and others to hold the offender accountable without a court hearing. In more serious juvenile cases, the case may go before a judge or jury for [adjudication](#). Department of Law attorneys prosecute the case before the court.

Child in Need of Aid. An action in which the Department of Health and Social Services, Office of Children's Services (OCS) asks the court to declare a child to be a *child in need of aid*. A "child in need of aid" is a person under 18 years of age whom the court finds needs the help of the State of Alaska because the child is not receiving proper care or is in an unsafe situation. The court and the OCS try to make a plan to help the child. Child in need of aid cases are commonly referred to as CINA (pronounced "china") cases.

