



2.6.6 Involvement in juvenile court proceedings

Adolescents (aged 14 to 17) are deemed criminally responsible and are subject to juvenile criminal law; the same applies to young adults (aged 18 to 20) whose developmental status or crime is deemed juvenile in nature.

The duties of the youth courts assistance service or youth assistance in criminal proceedings are outlined in Book 8 of the Social Code (SGB VIII) and in the Youth Courts Act (JGG):

Article 52 of SGB VIII:

- involvement in criminal proceedings under Sections 38 and 50 III 2 of the JGG,
- provision of assistance and support for the young accused during the proceedings,
- provision of youth services that may eliminate the need for criminal prosecution or lead to the discontinuation of proceedings already begun.

Sections 38 and 50 JGG:

- submission of relevant information in juvenile court proceedings, particularly relating to the young accused's personality and social circumstances,
- participation in and reporting during main proceedings,
- monitoring of compliance with instructions and conditions.