Hannah Elmore

Juvenile Courts Assignment

If I were to be a juvenile court judge, I would be harsh. However, I would examine all of the details of the crime and depending on the crime I would be harsher for some crime compared to others. I would be harsh because the juveniles should not be there in the first place. Hopefully, by being harsh to the juveniles in court it would deter them from committing more crimes. I have never been in any type of juvenile court from an offense I committed, but I did have to go to court to receive a hard copy of my license. The judge who gave us our license was very stern and made it clear to us all that driving is a privilege. Due to the judge being so stern and serious, it has made me a safe and cautious driver. I feel like being harsh on the juveniles in the courtroom would help me to get through to the juveniles more because they would take the whole process more seriously. When it comes to my discretionary decision factors, I would like to know what crime the juvenile had committed, their age, maybe their home life, and why they committed the crime. If a juvenile is facing abuse and neglect at home, I would still be stern with them in court, but also try to get them out of their current living situation that may be a factor of their delinquency.

I believe that juvenile delinquency proceedings should be secret. Kids make mistakes, especially when they become teenagers. I believe if a juvenile is going through court for a crime they have committed, the only people involved besides the courtroom actors should be the juvenile and their family. I simply feel that a juvenile should not have their whole life ruined over something they did when they were younger. Keeping their proceedings from the knowledge of the public will keep them safe, and they can also still have a future.