



Judging Delinquents: Context and Process in Juvenile Court

By Robert M. Emerson

Aldine Transaction. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 307 pages. Dimensions: 8.8in. x 6.0in. x 0.7in. Juvenile court has elicited the interest and criticism of lawyers, social workers, and criminologists, but less attention from sociologists. This book adds to growing sociological literature on the operations of legal institutions. It describes some critical aspects of the functioning of the juvenile court, an institution charged with judging and treating delinquents. To this end, it analyzes the nature of the court operation, the handling of delinquents, and the courts functions in relation to the wider social and legal system. This study reflects two distinct sociological heritages. First, it presents an institutional analysis of a juvenile court. One basic component of such an analysis involves description of the social context within which the juvenile court functions. In this way this book considers the nature of the courts relations with the various local institutions in its working environment and the consequences of these relations for its internal operations. Second, this study grows out of the current societal reaction approach to deviance. This approach views deviance as the product of the response of official agents of social control to perceived norm violations: deviance involves acts and actors reacted...

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