

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea's Juvenile Crime Prevention Law*

Contents

Chapter 1. Fundamentals of the Juvenile Crime Prevention Law	2
Article 1 (Purpose of the Juvenile Crime Prevention Law).....	2
Article 2 (Principles of Juvenile Crime Prevention).....	2
Article 3 (Principles of Juvenile Protection).....	2
Article 4 (Relationship with Other Laws).....	2
Chapter 2. Education and Training of Juveniles	2
Article 5 (Legal Education by Educational Institutions)	2
Article 6 (Education through Parent Meetings).....	3
Article 7 (Educational Duties of Parents and Guardians).....	3
Article 8 (Educational Duties of Cultural, Publishing and Broadcasting Organizations)	3
Chapter 3. Law-Abiding Behavior of Juveniles	3
Article 9 (Prohibited Acts for Juveniles)	3
Article 10 (Duties of Institutions, Enterprises, Organizations and Citizens).....	4
Article 11 (Juveniles' Duty to Confess)	4
Article 12 (Juveniles' Duty to Report)	4
Article 13 (Schools' Duty to Notify).....	4
Article 14 (Prohibited Acts for Institutions, Enterprises, Organizations and Citizens)	4
Article 15 (Protection of Juveniles Without Guardians).....	5
Article 16 (Control of Juveniles with Delinquent Tendencies).....	5
Article 17 (Duties of Supervisory Bodies).....	5
Chapter 4. Legal Responsibility.....	5
Article 18 (Administrative or Criminal Responsibility).....	5

***This is an unofficial translation of the law for informational purposes only.**

Adopted as Decision No. 415 of the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly on September 25, Juche 109 (2020)¹

Chapter 1. Fundamentals of the Juvenile Crime Prevention Law

Article 1 (Purpose of the Juvenile Crime Prevention Law)

The Juvenile Crime Prevention Law of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea contributes to strengthening the fight against juvenile crime, ensuring social stability, and preparing the new generations to become reliable workers for the country.

Article 2 (Principles of Juvenile Crime Prevention)

Strengthening legal education for juveniles is a prerequisite for preventing all types of crimes and illegal acts among juveniles. The state shall strengthen legal education to ensure that juveniles know and consciously follow the country's laws from an early age at schools, homes, and in society, thereby preventing juvenile crime in advance.

Article 3 (Principles of Juvenile Protection)

It is the consistent policy of the state to cherish and protect juveniles who are the future of the homeland and inheritors of the revolution. The state shall ensure that juveniles do not become involved in any crimes or illegal acts and shall pay special attention to guaranteeing favorable environments and conditions for their growth.

Article 4 (Relationship with Other Laws)

Matters not regulated in this law regarding juvenile crime prevention shall be governed by the relevant laws.

Chapter 2. Education and Training of Juveniles

Article 5 (Legal Education by Educational Institutions)

The Central Education Guidance Agency must accurately implement legal subjects in the educational curriculum to raise juveniles' legal consciousness. Schools must conduct legal education in close connection with political ideology and moral education according to juveniles' psychological characteristics and level of preparation.

¹ This refers to North Korea's Juche calendar, which begins with 1912 (Kim Il Sung's birth year). Juche 109 corresponds to 2020 in the Gregorian calendar.

Article 6 (Education through Parent Meetings)

Schools and teachers must regularly organize parent meetings to evaluate positive developments among students and criticize and educate regarding any abnormal phenomena that appear.

Article 7 (Educational Duties of Parents and Guardians)

Parents and guardians must maintain connections with schools and youth league² organizations, regularly monitor their children's or wards' studies and life, and strengthen education and control to prevent them from becoming involved in any crimes or illegal acts.

Article 8 (Educational Duties of Cultural, Publishing and Broadcasting Organizations)

Cultural, publishing and broadcasting organizations must widely create and distribute various literary and artistic works necessary for juveniles to possess revolutionary and noble spiritual and moral qualities.

Chapter 3. Law-Abiding Behavior of Juveniles

Article 9 (Prohibited Acts for Juveniles)

Juveniles must not engage in the following acts:

1. Manufacturing, possessing, viewing/distributing impure publications and propaganda materials, violent crimes including threats, assault and battery, fighting, stealing, extorting or damaging state, social cooperative or private property
2. Delinquent behavior, superstition, gambling, distorting our country's songs or imitating South Korean speech patterns, wearing exotic clothing or hairstyles, or decorating oneself
3. Not attending school or leaving home to wander
4. Smoking or drinking alcohol/beer, engaging in commerce, carrying weapons, writing graffiti or spreading rumors
5. All other legally defined crimes and illegal acts

² This refers to the Kimilsungist-Kimjongilist Youth League (previously known as Kim Il Sung Socialist Youth League), the main youth organization in North Korea for ages 14-30.

Article 10 (Duties of Institutions, Enterprises, Organizations and Citizens)

Schools, institutions, enterprises, organizations and citizens must stop crimes and illegal acts among juveniles when they occur or report them to relevant supervisory bodies including social security agencies.³

Article 11 (Juveniles' Duty to Confess)

Juveniles who have committed crimes or illegal acts must confess them to supervisory bodies including social security agencies, or to schools and youth league organizations. When juveniles confess, they shall be treated leniently according to the law.

Article 12 (Juveniles' Duty to Report)

Juveniles must promptly report any crimes or illegal acts they discover to relevant supervisory bodies including social security agencies, or to schools and youth league organizations. Agencies receiving reports must protect reporting juveniles from harm.

Article 13 (Schools' Duty to Notify)

Schools must regularly understand and monitor juveniles' studies and life conditions and notify parents, guardians or their affiliated institutions, enterprises or organizations.

Article 14 (Prohibited Acts for Institutions, Enterprises, Organizations and Citizens)

Institutions, enterprises, organizations and citizens must not engage in the following acts that could negatively influence juveniles:

1. Making and selling non-Korean style clothing or providing exotic hairstyling or body decorations
2. Producing or printing impure video compilations⁴
3. Not sending juveniles to school
4. Illegally employing juveniles
5. Selling tobacco, alcohol or beer
6. Instigating or encouraging crimes or illegal acts

³ These are North Korea's domestic law enforcement organizations, including the Ministry of Social Security, the country's national police agency.

⁴ Generally refers to foreign media content, particularly from South Korea or Western countries.

7. Other activities that could negatively impact juveniles' development

Article 15 (Protection of Juveniles Without Guardians)

People's committees,⁵ schools and youth league organizations must responsibly care for juveniles without guardians and ensure they do not skip school or wander.

Article 16 (Control of Juveniles with Delinquent Tendencies)

Schools, youth league organizations and social security agencies must identify juveniles with delinquent tendencies and regularly educate and control them to prevent crimes and illegal acts.

Article 17 (Duties of Supervisory Bodies)

Relevant supervisory bodies including social security agencies must regularly monitor their jurisdictions for juvenile crimes and illegal acts and strengthen legal control. Investigation and handling of juvenile crimes and illegal acts shall follow relevant legal procedures.

Chapter 4. Legal Responsibility

Article 18 (Administrative or Criminal Responsibility)

Those responsible for educating juveniles who cause serious consequences by violating this law shall face administrative or criminal responsibility according to the severity of their actions.

⁵ Local government organizations in North Korea that function as administrative units at various levels.