

## DETERMINING THE SEVERITY OF THE OFFENSE BASED UPON THE JUVENILE COURT'S OFFENSE ACRONYM

The Juvenile Court's Juvenile Information System represents every possible offense with a six character offense code or acronym. The last character in the acronym determines the severity of the offense. Knowing this is helpful in determining the level of the offense for the matrix. The following is an example of one such offense code:

THCR25

Every offense in the juvenile information system is represented by a six (6) character acronym, such as this one (Car Theft).

The sixth character (circled) represents the severity of the offense. By looking at the sixth character, in this case the number 5, we can tell that this particular Car Theft is a 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree Property Felony.

Some general rules have been applied in categorizing offenses. First, offenses are divided into felony crimes and misdemeanor crimes. Felony crimes are all identified using a numeric character. Misdemeanor crimes are all identified using an alphabetic character.

Offenses are further subdivided into person, property, and public order offenses. The table that follows identifies the level and subcategory of every offense used with the matrix. Practitioners should use this table for reference purposes. It is critical to remember that the sixth (or last) character in the offense code determines the severity of the offense.

Offense Character (Last character in offense code)	Severity and Category of Offense
0	Capital Felony
1	1 <sup>st</sup> Degree Person Felony
2	2 <sup>nd</sup> Degree Person Felony
3	3 <sup>rd</sup> Degree Person Felony
4	1 <sup>st</sup> Degree Property Felony
5	2 <sup>nd</sup> Degree Property Felony
6	3 <sup>rd</sup> Degree Property Felony
7	1 <sup>st</sup> Degree Public Order Felony
8	2 <sup>nd</sup> Degree Public Order Felony
9	3 <sup>rd</sup> Degree Public Order Felony
A	Class A Person Misdemeanor
B	Class B Person Misdemeanor
C	Class C Person Misdemeanor
D	Class A Property Misdemeanor
E	Class B Property Misdemeanor
F	Class C Property Misdemeanor
G	Class A Public Order Misdemeanor
H	Class B Public Order Misdemeanor
I	Class C Public Order Misdemeanor