Juvenile Court General Purpose Clauses

Juvenile court General Purpose Clauses take one of five general forms. These forms are:

1) Balanced and Restorative Justice Clauses—focus on balancing the needs of the youth, the victim, and public safety.

2) "Standard Juvenile Court Act" Clauses—emphasize care, guidance, and control to ensure the welfare of the youth.

3) "Legislative Guide" Clauses—intent is to provide care, protection, supervision, and rehabilitation to children.

4) Punishment, Deterrence, Accountability, and/or Public Safety Clauses—take a criminal court orientation and focus on community safety and offender accountability.

5) Traditional Child Welfare Clauses—emphasize welfare and best interests of child.

You can look at the General Purpose clauses for your state and others at: http://www.ncjj.org/Topic/Purpose-Clause.aspx.