The following article, A Short German-English Glossary of the Juvenile Criminal Law, by Geoffrey Perrin, appeared in *Lebende Sprachen* Nr. 2/1989 Geoffrey Perrin has kindly allowed me to make it available online at www.margaretmarks.com/Transblawg.

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Geoffrey Perrin, Sprachendienst Bundesministerium der Justiz

## A Short German-English Glossary of the Juvenile Criminal Law

1. Introduction: the principles followed in the compilation of the glossary

glossary
The following "Short German-English Glossary of the Juvenile
Criminal Law" is intended first and foremost as a practical tool for
the translator who is sometimes called upon to offer his services in
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The German terms come from the juvenile criminal law of the Federal Republic of Germany. The English equivalents suggested have principally been arrived at in three different ways: either they have been taken directly from the terminology of the law of England and Wales where there seems to me to be a high degree of correspondence between the German and English practices (e.g. the translations of "Erforschung der Täterpersönlichkeit" and "Fürsor-

geerziehung"); or they have been based on terms in use in England, but then modified slightly to reflect more exactly the true nature of the German measure (e.g. "Maßregel der Besserung und Sicherung"); or lastly, they represent a coining on my part in the absence of a corresponding or similar institution in the UK (e.g. "Zuchtmittel").

To the purist in the field of terminology who would only allow the first of the three processes described above, the state of affairs just outlined may well appear less than satisfactory. I fully unterstand this complaint; perhaps I may here be permitted the statement of a brief defence. The principles of terminology work, I would contend, can only be adhered to in their entirety where one is comparing like with like. These ideal conditions are not always given in the case of

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legal systems, which typically represent the latest stage in a process of evolution which has taken place over many centuries in a particular country. This phenomenon was once commented on by André Donner, former President of the Court of Justice of the European Communities, in the following fashion (he was speaking back in the days when the Community was still composed of the original Six):

"... it certainly is true that many fundamental concepts and notions are common to the law of every one of the Six. But in a way that only adds to the misunderstanding. We use the same terms and reason along the same lines, but this seeming identity can intensify the difficulty, because we suppose that in using identical terms we give them identical content. And that is just not correct, for the content of those terms has been developed and modified in the course of six different legal histories. ... It would in some way clarify the situation if among the Member States there were at least one with an obviously different system of law, for example England, for then no one could continue to argue as though there

were no legal diversity and to presume as a matter of course that every civilised nation has exactly the same notions as his own legal system". (quoted by Frame 1986: 32)

André Donner obviously saw the great divergence exhibited in a number of areas between common law and Roman law systems as having clear advantages. Those of us working as translators may occasionally be forgiven for harbouring other feelings!

It might be useful at this juncture to compare part of the systems of sanctions available to German and English juvenile courts. Let us suppose that a young person is before the court, and that either the seriousness of the offence or his antecedents (i.e. previous history) mean that careful consideration must be given to the possibility of curtailing his liberty in some way. The decision-making processes of the German and English courts might then look like this: the German and English courts might then look like this

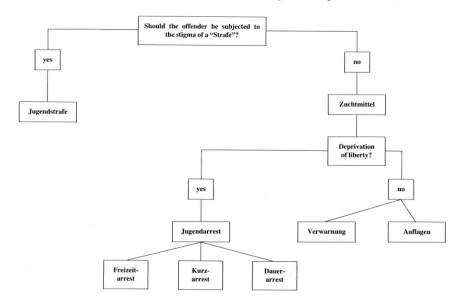


Figure 1: The decision-making process in the Federal Republic of Germany

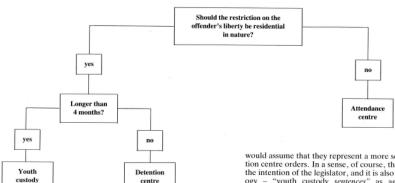


Figure 2: The decision-making process in England and Wales

The essential "differentness" of the two systems will be apparent: even the points of departure for the deliberations of the two courts, as well as the criteria used along the way, are different. At first glance, the British order of things would appear to be the more straightforward one, but appearances, as ever, are deceptive! Since youth custody sentences are generally upwards of four months, one would assume that they represent a more severe penalty than detention centre orders. In a sense, of course, this is true: such was in fact the intention of the legislator, and it is also reflected in the terminology – "youth custody sentences" as against "detention centre orders". If, however, we now take a closer look at the actual regimes involved, a rather different picture emerges. Section 11 of the Criminal Justice Act 1982 defines "detention centres" as

"places in which male offenders not less than 14 but under 21 years of age who are ordered to be detained in such centres under the Criminal Justice Act 1982 may be kept for short periods under discipline suitable to persons of their age and description".

Of youth custody centres, the same section has the following to say:

"...places in which offenders not less than 15 but under 21 years of age may be detained and given training, instruction and work and prepared for their release".

So whilst it is the disciplinary aspect of detention centres which is stressed, in the case of youth custody centres, the rehabilitation factor is more to the fore. In fact, detention centres represent the main vehicle for the "short, sharp shock" approach to juvenile crime announced by the present Conservative government in Britain shortly after coming to power under Mrs. Thatcher in 1979. Interestingly enough, the new legislation also proved somewhat confusing for – or open to abuse by – those called upon to operate it, and there was considerable criticism of some courts, after the Act came into force, for "moving offenders up the custodial tariff" to ensure that they would be placed in youth custody rather than a detention centre. This prompted the Home Secretary (Innenminister) at the time to give the courts a public reminder that their primary task was to decide on a length of penalty appropriate to the seriousness of the offence. Once this had been fixed, the type of accommodation would in most cases follow as a matter of course. There could be no question of the courts manipulating things so that the deprivation of liberty took one form rather than another.

liberty took one form rather than another.

One now begins to get some idea of the difficulties involved in terminology work in this area. Since "Jugendarrestanstalten" in Germany place more emphasis on reform than punishment, I decided that "detention centre" on its own would not be acceptable as a translation – a "gloss" or appendage in some form was needed. After some thought, then, I came up with "detention centre for educative training". Another kind of difficulty arose with the term "Jugendstrafe". As the most severe sanction available under the juvenile criminal law in Germany, this has obvious similarities with youth custody in England and Wales. However, since the concept of "youth custody" only came into existence with the 1982 Act referred to above (to replace the long-standing institution of borstal), it is not yet likely to be widely known and understood outside Britain. It also has the disadvantage of potential ambiguity, since the word "custody" can occur in other contexts — notably, "remand in custody". For these reasons, then, I have also included the term "youth imprisonment" in my glossary as an alternative. (I must confess that I was rather proud of this as a personal coining until I discovered that it had been proposed as long ago as 1972 — see bibliography following the glossary a in a report on the West German system prepared by the UK Advisory Council on the Penal System!) Whilst preferable from the point of view of international comprehensibility, this term also has a drawback: the word "imprisonment" is one closely associated with the adult criminal law, and the German legislator was particularly concerned that a distinction should be made between the concept of "Strafe" as understood in the general criminal law and "Jugendstrafe" (see note [1] a) to section 17 of the "Jugendgerichtsgesetz" in the commentary by Brunner (1975)). This, it might be observed, contrasts somewhat with the situation in England yet again, where the 1982 Act makes quite clear

that both youth custody and detention should be ordered wherever an adult in a similar situation would be liable to a prison sentence.

One might well ask, of course, why I got myself into these difficulties in the first place by choosing the juvenile criminal law of England as the source for my English renderings. A fair enough question, but it leads us in turn to the far more general one: where do we take our language from when working as terminologists in the soft sciences, which, in addition to law, include education, economics and finance, and politics and government (especially local) – in other words, all hose fields which can vary enormously in form and internal structure from one country to another? In the present case, I chose England and Wales because this is the system with which I am myself most familiar, and also because I assumed—modestly—that my glossary was most likely to be used in a European context (i.e. by persons with some knowledge of conditions in England). I agree, however, that I could equally well have chosen the USA or an anglophone African country as my source. In the final analysis, the determining factor when working in the soft sciences will probably be (as I have suggested here and elsewhere) the audience for whom the glossary is intended – or more precisely, the terminologist's knowledge of the background and previous experience of that audience.

will probably be (as I have suggested here and elsewhere) the audience for whom the glossary is intended – or more precisely, the terminologist's knowledge of the background and previous experience of that audience.

We could also contemplate, of course, working from a variety of "source systems". For example, I mentioned above that the English juvenile criminal law has no exact equivalent in its official terminology of the concept of "Zuchtmittel", and I therefore decided to provide a translation of my own. If, however, I had searched long enough in the literature of the American juvenile criminal law, I might perhaps have come up with something. I can see no objection to this kind of approach. After all – to dwell on our present concern – what we are primarily seeking to do here is match appropriate English labels to chunks of German reality, not compile a list of terms currently in use in the juvenile criminal law of England. And where we take these labels from is, by comparison, of secondary importance. If we did mix British and American terms, then naturally, we would need to go through the list again afterwards, standardising spellings (BE "offence", for example, is AE "offense").

There is yet another, more radical approach to terminology work in this area which I do not myself seriously regard as a viable possibility, but which should perhaps be mentioned in passing. We have referred above to the danger of false associations which can arise from employing the terminology of a particular national system (our example was "detention centre" as a rendering of "lugendarrestanstalt"). This problem might be depicted graphically as follows (the diagram obviously owes something to the famous "meaning triangle" of Ogden and Richards):

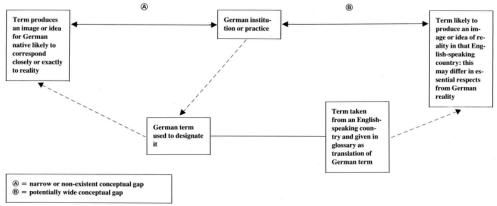


Figure 3: The conceptual gap in terminology work in the soft sciences

The foregoing representation is, I think, self-explanatory: our task is finding some means of avoiding misconceptions — of bridging the conceptual or referential gap. One way we might tackle this is by creating, in English, a whole new terminology, neutral with respect to the terms actually in use in all the English-speaking countries of the world. To take the criminal law as an example: we would no longer speak of "offence/offense" or "crime" but, say, "punishable act", and what is denoted by the German "Strafanstalt" would not

be "prison" or "penitentiary" but "institution for those convicted of punishable acts". Such an undertaking would clearly be time-consuming and strewn with all kinds of pitfalls. Perhaps the biggest one would arise directly out of our decision to sever the bond between the term and a particular English-speaking social order: for the cultural context of a word is part of its meaning, and once this context is no longer given, we are obliged to take recourse to linguistic compensation (i.e. packing enough information into the term itself to remove any ambiguity as to its intended referent). This in turn, of course, is likely to produce some long-winded designations whose practical value is subject to a large question mark.

What we need to do here is avoid overstating the problem. Firstly, we should not forget the role played by the reader in that com-municative process which is translation: the translator, I feel, has a right to expect that his work will be approached in an intelligent and disciplined fashion – in other words, that the person reading an English translation of a German text will make the constant mental effort required to bear in mind that the English terms refer to German reality, and thereby avoid the misleading associations we have spoken of above. Secondly, any term in use is usually embedded in a longer stretch of language – the text – which contains enough information in many cases to disambiguate that particular term. In short, there is no real practical need to devise a whole new set of labels, starting from scratch: in fact, inventing our own terms should always be the last resort in any given instance. If my own experience is typical, it is only in the minority of cases – round about 30% of the items in the present glossary – that the target-language culture is totally devoid of a comparable feature, and therefore term, which we can at least use as a starting point in making up a term. All that is then needed to bridge the conceptual gap in some instances is an appropriate gloss. (For example, I think we can say with some certainty that the variety of "Rechtsbehelfe" available in Germany far exceeds anything we can find in common law systems. Yet many of these terms can be satisfactorily rendered into English by suitable variations on the theme of "appeal": appeal on points of law and fact, appeal on points of law only, time-limited appeal, and so on.)

In a sense, then, terminology work in the soft sciences will fre-

quently be to some extent arbitrary (as regards the national system we select as our primary source of linguistic material), but also prag-matic. And it is these two criteria that I would adduce to defend my decision to embellish terms actually used in Britain, or even to invent new terms. But if one does take the step of elaborating one's own terminology, then the actual process of arriving at the new term can never be arbitrary. To start with, we should always avoid producing anything which either sounds odd to the native speaker or which totally fails to give him a fair idea of what is meant as the referent. Our ideal must rather be to aim at an end-product that catches the true "flavour" of the institution or practice we are designating, which in turn means that there will often be a strong case for creating a term embodying connotational as well as conceptual meaning (Leech 1974) – again, our rendering of "Jugendarrestanstalt" furnishes us with a good example here. At the same time, terms which are so long as to be unwieldy will – as I have already suggested - generally be unacceptable.

One or two further observations on the approach I have adopted in compiling my list: in a number of instances, I have provided glosses or explanations in brackets – the translator will decide himself, of course, whether the circumstances call for them to be included, either by building them into the text he is producing, or in the form of footnotes. In some cases, I have not hesitated to use terms which are now obsolete as regards official use in Britain where I feel these are suitable for conveying a German concept (e.g., "misdemeanour" for "Verfehlung"). The soft sciences are particularly prone to rapid obsolescence in the terminological field, since they are precisely those spheres of life which are most at the mercy of the whims of governments as they come and go. If one were to reject a term simply because it ceased to be employed officially a year or two previously, the terminologist's job would become even more difficult! Nor should one underestimate the "human factor", of course. The man in the street has a funny habit of continuing to use terms which Acts of Parliament have seen fit to abolish, a good example here being "borstal" which is almost certainly still more familiar to the majority of people in England than "youth custody (centre)". My only reason for not including "borstal" in the glossary as a rendering of "Jugendstrafanstalt" was its semantic opacity, and the fact that other terms were available.

Some terms which have been included (e.g. "Jugendamt", "Vor-mundschaftsgericht") clearly enjoy an application wider than just that of the juvenile criminal law. This is both inevitable and desirable, since in the Federal Republic of Germany, there is a planned interlocking - both in legislation and in actual practice - between the juvenile justice system and general welfare provision for the young.

I stressed at the beginning of these remarks that I view the glos-

I stressed at the beginning of these remarks that I view the glossary below first and foremost as a practical aid: this was the main reason for keeping it as short as possible. Here I have been guided, firstly, by frequency of occurence – hence I have included "Angeklagter" and "Beschuldigter", but not "Angeschuldigter". (Having thrown up that particular problem, though, I suppose I had now better deal with it – the word does after all occur in \$40 of the "Jugendgerichtsgesetz"! A suitable rendering might be "the person charged". If it were then necessary to contrast "Angeschuldigter" with "Angeklagter", the latter might be glossed as "the accused against whom main proceedings have been opened". The three German terms, it might be added, contract a sense-relation with one another (Lyons 1968) not paralleled in the official terminology of the English criminal law.) The same principle of brevity and practicality English criminal law.) The same principle of brevity and practicality was also the basis for my decision to leave out, with few exceptions.

the very basic terms of the criminal law such as one might expect to find in any bilingual legal or even general dictionary. Where I have included basic concepts, this is usually either because I am not satisfied with the renderings suggested in standard dictionaries, or because the term in question combines with other words to yield terms which are specific to the juvenile criminal law (e.g. "heranwachsender Straftåter").

I have mentioned on a number of occasions already the three main paths followed in arriving at the English terms in the list. Those which represent coinings are indicated as such by an asterisk. Distin guishing between the other two categories - taken directly, and taken in modified form, from the English legal literature - is something I decided against, however. There were two main reasons for this: firstly, both categories have a common essential feature (prov-

tins: Instly, both categories have a common essential feature (provenance), and secondly, I did not wish to overload the glossary with information which added nothing to its strictly functional role. (Cf. however Köhnen 1972 in the bibliography.)

A special word must be said about the translation of the concept "erzieherisch", which recurs throughout the German literature. One often finds this rendered in English as "educational" (see the various documents of the Council of Europe relating to this field, for example). This adjective is for me strongly redolent of formal oversiend. documents of the Council of Europe relating to this field, for example). This adjective is, for me, strongly redolent of formal, organised education – schools, universities, and so on – and as such, closely related to the German notion of "Bildung". In my view, it is "educative" which gets nearer to "erzieherisch". For a long time, this was really little more than a subjective feeling on my part: although one or two other native speakers of English with whom I discussed the problem shared my intuition, I sought in vain for confirmation in monolingual English dictionaries or standard works of reference monolingual English dictionaries or standard works of reference such as Fowler's "A dictionary of modern English usage". Now, however, I am very pleased to see that my thesis is borne out by the entries for "educational" and "educative" in the English-German section of the Collins-Klett "Großwörterbuch Deutsch-Englisch / Englisch-Deutsch"!

I must conclude this introduction by acknowledging my sources To indicate the origin of every single idea for solving terminological problems, or every text which has led to a firmer grasp of a particular topic, would be, for the translator, akin to a solo ascent of Everest without oxygen! For those of us working in the language professions, without oxygen: For those or to sworking in the language professions, the world is our oyster: no translator ever picks up a newspaper secure in the knowledge that he can sit down and relax – the "danger" of finding something relevant to his work is too great! This does not free us from the obligation, however, to mention at least our main sources. The books and other written material I have found most useful I have included in the bibliography to be found after the glossary. As regards human sources, I must make special mention of two: Herr Ministerialrat Horst Viehmann, head of section (Referatsleiter) for juvenile criminal law at the Federal Ministry of Justice in Bonn, and Herr Hans-Josef Schmitz, local court judge (Richter am Amtsgericht) and formerly assistant to Herr Viehmann at the Ministry. Both of them, in addition to putting at my disposal the documents of international organisations with an active interest in the field in question (Council of Europe, United Nations), have given generously of their time – and patience! – to explain certain concepts and features of the juvenile criminal law in the Federal Republic of Germany which were not accessible to my immediate comprehension. Any comprehension "breakdowns" which may still be reflected in the glossary are, of course, attributable entirely to me.

## 2. A short German-English glossary of the juvenile criminal law/ Kleines Glossar des Jugendstrafrechts (Deutsch-Englisch)

der Angeklagte die Anstaltsunterbringung die Anvollstreckung

Arbeitsweisungen

Bewährung

Jugendstrafe

the accused

placement in an institution punitive use of custody on remand (to avoid the impression of acquittal where a subse quent sentence of youth imprisonment is suspended on probation)

\*directions to perform a certain type of work (for educative purposes)

(specific) requirements requirements designed to pre-vent flight and repeated offences

suspension of youth imprison-ment on probation deferring the possible imposition of youth imprisonment

die Belegungszahlen (im Jugendstrafvollzug)

Aussetzung der Jugendstrafe zur

Aussetzung der Verhängung der

Auflagen flucht- und wiederholungs-

hemmende Auflagen

detainee numbers/figures; prison

die Berufung der Beschuldigte appeal on points of law and fact der Heranwachsende young adult (already 18, but not alleged offender vet 21) die Betreuungsweisung care and guidance order die Bewährung probation Bewährungsauflagen der Bewährungshelfer conditions attached to probation probation officer informelle Verfahrenserledigung diversion terms of the probation order der Bewährungsplan die Einheitsstrafe \*integrated sentence (a single das Jugendamt youth welfare office sentence passed in response to two or more separate ofder Jugendarrest Freizeitarrest youth detention \*weekend detention fences) Kurzarrest \*short-term detention (up to 6 discontinuance of proceedings \*short period of detention to "give a taste" of deprivation of liberty (formerly used where Einstellung des Verfahrens \*continuous detention (1-4 der Einstiegsarrest Dauerarrest weeks) die Jugendarrestanstalt detention centre for educative a sentence of youth imprison-ment was suspended on probatraining
\*official measures for the protecdie Jugendfürsorge tion) tion of individual children and die Einweisung (in die Jugend-strafanstalt, in die Jugendcommittal (to a youth prison, to young persons at risk (part of "Jugendhilfe", cf. "Jugenda youth detention centre arrestanstalt) die Entlassung (aus der Strafanpflege")
\*Juvenile Courts Act release/discharge (from the cordas Jugendgerichtsgesetz rectional institution)
apologising to the injured party die Jugendgerichtshilfe die Jugendgerichtsverfassung \*juvenile court support service organisation of the juvenile stalt) Entschuldigung beim Verletzten developmental and upbringing deficiencies courts youth welfare services Entwicklungs- und Erziehungsdie Jugendhilfe moral and intellectual desittliche und geistige Entwickjuvenile division, sitting with 3 professional and 2 lay judges (as a court of either first or die Jugendkammer velopment deprivation of the right to drive lung Entziehung der Fahrerlaubnis die Entziehungsanstalt detoxification centre; (drug / alcohol) dependency second instance) die Jugendkriminalität juvenile delinguency/crime young person (already 14, but not yet 18) der Jugendliche preparation of a social inquiry re-Erforschung der Täterpersönlichkeit die Ermahnung port caution (a firm reminder, given oung person of a basically healthy / favourable disposiein gutgearteter Jugendlicher by the juvenile court judge. tion that certain duties hitherto young person whose upbringing ein verwahrloster Jugendneglected have got to be ful-filled. No special form is pre-scribed for it, unlike the "Verhas been seriously neglected \*measures aimed at ensuring the well-being and healthy devel-opment of young persons generally (e.g. organising of die Jugendpflege warnung".) investigations; enquiries die Ermittlungen open-air activities and youth clubs, etc.) (part of "Jugend-hilfe", cf. "Jugendfürsorge") juvenile court judge (first inwelfare supervisor welfare supervision der Erziehungsbeistand die Erziehungsbeistandschaft \*the person entitled to bring up a child or young person (On official forms: "parent or der Erziehungsberechtigte der Jugendrichter stance) juvenile court sitting with 1 proguardian") the educative idea/principle das Jugendschöffengericht der Erziehungsgedanke fessional and 2 lay judges ein dem Erziehungsgedanken verpflichtetes Sanktionena system of sanctions committed (court of first instance) to educative principles der Jugendstaatsanwalt \*public prosecutor in cases of juvenile delinquency \*youth prison; youth custody centre; penal establishment / institution for young offenders das Erziehungsheim (das Fürsorgeerziehungsheim) \*home for the care and upbringdie Jugendstrafanstalt ing of young persons at risk; community home die Erziehungshilfe \*youth imprisonment/custody an indeterminate sentence of educative support die Jugendstrafe \*special measure of education and training; \*educative measeine Jugendstrafe von unbe-stimmter Dauer die Erziehungsmaßregel youth imprisonment; an inde-terminate youth custody sen-\*Federal Register of Decisions das Erziehungsregister tence das Jugendstrafverfahren der Jugendstrafvollzug in Juvenile and Guardianship juvenile criminal proceedings the serving of sentences by young offenders (In a more concrete sense: penal/ correctional institutions for das Fahrverbot driving ban; disqualification young offenders) from driving deprivation of liberty; custody; placing in custody der Freiheitsentzug \*examination of the accused (by a psychiatrist or psychologist) to identify personality factors relevant to the offence freiheitsentziehende Sanktion custodial / institutional sanction supervision of conduct kriminalbiologische Unterdie Führungsaufsicht suchung care order (for the implementa-tion of compulsory educative die Fürsorgeerziehung and welfare measures) M G Maßregel der Besserung und Sicherung correction and prevention order; measure of correction and gemeinnützige Arbeitsleistungen Gesetz für Jugendwohlfahrt community service Youth Welfare Act prevention gesetzlicher Vertreter non-institutional measure statutory representative ambulante Maßregel

stationäre Maßregel

die Nebenstrafe

\*main proceedings trial; main hearing institutional measure

penalty

supplementary/subsidiary

die Untersuchungshaftvollzugsremand centre offener (geschlossener) Vollzug (prison sentences served in) open (closed) establishments anstalt die Untersuchungshaftvollzugs-\*Regulations governing remand in custody ordnung der Personensorgeberechtigte the person given the right of personal custody (of a child or die Verfehlung misdemeanour die Verwarnung der Vollstreckungsleiter voung person) formal warning; reprimand \*the person supervising enforce-ment of the measure imposed (the juvenile court judge who rechtschaffen law-abiding to lead a law-abiding and responeinen rechtschaffenen und verheard the case in question) \*the person supervising execuantwortungsbewußten Lebenssible life der Vollzugsleiter wandel führen das Rechtsmittelverfahren the person supervising execu-tion of the custodial measure imposed (in the case of "Ju-gendarrest", the juvenile court judge in whose area the deten-tion centre is situated; in the appeal proceedings appeal on points (a point) of law die Revision only case of "Jugendstrafe", the youth prison governor) die Schadenswiedergutmachung reparation criminal liability/responsibility absence of criminal liability/redie Schuldfähigkeit das Vormundschaftsgericht guardianship court preliminary proceedings die Schuldunfähigkeit das Vorverfahren sponsibility
\*time-limited appeal sofortige Beschwerde strafmündig Kinder unter 14 Jahre sind criminally liable/responsible Children under 14 years have not Weisungen directions (court instructions as attained the age of criminal liability/responsibility nicht strafmündig strafrechtlich verantwortlich \*capable of recognising the wrongfulness of an act and of Zahlung eines Geldbetrags zupayment of a sum of money to a gunsten einer gemeinnützigen Einrichtung charitable institution/to an or-ganisation serving purposes behaving accordingly der Straftäter jugendlicher Straftäter heranwachsender Straftäter das Subsidiaritätsprinzip offender young offender beneficial to the community Zuchtmittel \*disciplinary measures with eduyoung adult offender cative intent subsidiarity principle; Note: English terms in the glossary preceded by \* are coinings, i.e. \*lesser-measure principle (principle of never imposing a more severe measure where a less severe (subsidiary) one will suggested translations rather than terms actually in use 3. Bibliography 3. Bibliography
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