§ 722.20 Proceedings upon felony complaint; juvenile offender.

1. When a juvenile offender is arraigned before a youth part, the provisions of this section shall apply. If the youth part is not in session, the defendant shall be brought before the most accessible magistrate designated by the appellate division of the supreme court to act as a youth part for the purpose of making a determination whether such juvenile shall be detained or, with the consent of the district attorney, immediately removed to family court. If the defendant is ordered to be detained, he or she shall be brought before the next session of the youth part. If the defendant is not detained, he or she shall be ordered to appear at the next session of the youth part or the family court.

2. If the defendant waives a hearing upon the felony complaint, the court must order that the defendant be held for the action of the grand jury with respect to the charge or charges contained in the felony complaint.

3. If there be a hearing, then at the conclusion of the hearing, the youth part court must dispose of the felony complaint as follows:

(a) If there is reasonable cause to believe that the defendant committed a crime for which a person under the age of sixteen is criminally responsible, the court must order that the defendant be held for the action of a grand jury; or

(b) If there is not reasonable cause to believe that the defendant committed a crime for which a person under the age of sixteen is criminally responsible but there is reasonable cause to believe that the defendant is a "juvenile delinquent" as defined in subdivision one of section 301.2 of the family court act, the court must specify the act or acts it found reasonable cause to believe the defendant did and direct that the action be removed to the family court in accordance with the provisions of article seven hundred twenty-five of this title; or

(c) If there is not reasonable cause to believe that the defendant committed any criminal act, the court must dismiss the felony complaint and discharge the defendant from custody if he is in custody, or if he is at liberty on bail, it must exonerate the bail.

4. Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivisions two and three of this section, the court shall, at the request of the district attorney, order removal of an action against a juvenile offender to the family court pursuant to the provisions of article seven hundred twenty-five of this title if, upon consideration of the criteria specified in subdivision two of section 722.22 of this article, it is determined that to do so would be in the interests of justice. Where, however, the felony complaint charges the juvenile offender with murder in the second degree as defined in section 125.25 of the penal law, rape in the first degree as defined in paragraph (a) of subdivision one, paragraph (a) of subdivision two and paragraph (a) of subdivision three of section 130.35 of the penal law, rape in the first degree as formerly defined in subdivision one of section 130.35 of the penal law; a crime formerly defined in subdivision one of section 130.50 of the penal law, or an armed felony as defined in paragraph (a) of subdivision forty-one of section 1.20 of this chapter, a determination that such action be removed to the family court shall, in addition, be based upon a finding of one or more of the following factors: (i) mitigating circumstances that bear directly upon the manner in which the crime was committed; or (ii) where the defendant was not the sole participant in the crime, the defendant's participation was relatively minor although not so minor as to constitute a defense to the prosecution; or (iii) possible deficiencies in proof of the crime.

5. Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision two, three, or four of this section, if a currently undetermined felony complaint against a juvenile offender is pending, and the defendant has not waived a hearing pursuant to subdivision two of this section and a hearing pursuant to subdivision three of this section has not commenced, the defendant may move to remove the action to family court pursuant to 722.22 of this article. The procedural rules of subdivisions one and two of section 210.45 of this chapter are applicable to a motion pursuant to this subdivision. Upon such motion, the court shall proceed and determine the motion as provided in section 722.22 of this article; provided, however, that the exception provisions of paragraph (b) of subdivision one of section 722.22 of this article shall not apply when there is not

reasonable cause to believe that the juvenile offender committed one or more of the crimes enumerated therein, and in such event the provisions of paragraph (a) thereof shall apply.

6. (a) If the court orders removal of the action to family court, it shall state on the record the factor or factors upon which its determination is based, and the court shall give its reasons for removal in detail and not in conclusory terms.

(b) The district attorney shall state upon the record the reasons for his consent to removal of the action to the family court where such consent is required. The reasons shall be stated in detail and not in conclusory terms.

(c) For the purpose of making a determination pursuant to subdivision four or five of this section, the court may make such inquiry as it deems necessary. Any evidence which is not legally privileged may be introduced. If the defendant testifies, his testimony may not be introduced against him in any future proceeding, except to impeach his testimony at such future proceeding as inconsistent prior testimony.

(d) Where a motion for removal by the defendant pursuant to subdivision five of this section has been denied, no further motion pursuant to this section or section 722.22 of this article may be made by the juvenile offender with respect to the same offense or offenses.

(e) Except as provided by paragraph (f) of this subdivision, this section shall not be construed to limit the powers of the grand jury.

(f) Where a motion by the defendant pursuant to subdivision five of this section has been granted, there shall be no further proceedings against the juvenile offender in any local or superior criminal court including the youth part of the superior court for the offense or offenses which were the subject of the removal order.