

- (i) **A FORENSIC CRIMINOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE ON THE ADJUDICATION OF CHILDREN IN SOUTH AFRICA**
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- (iii) **DEGREE: MASTER OF ARTS**
- (iv) **SUBJECT: CRIMINOLOGY**
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- (vi) **SUMMARY:** In this project the various International Instruments, namely the United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child, 1989, the Beijing Rules and the African Charter, relating to the protection of the rights of children were discussed focusing on the rights of children in conflict with the law. The important guidelines regarding the establishment of a minimum age for criminal capacity, detention, legal representation, diversion, sentencing, pre-sentence reports, child justice Courts and the confidentiality of children's Court hearings were highlighted. The current positions in South African law with regard to these issues were discussed and the proposed provisions in the Child Justice Bill, 49 of 2002 were furnished. The research included all the magistrates in Gauteng that were in service during February 2003 and March 2003. Throughout the project the important role that forensic criminologists can and should play in a juvenile justice system was highlighted.

Juvenile offenders; Child Justice; criminal capacity of juvenile offenders; pre-sentence reports; Child Justice Bill, 2002; forensic criminologist; adjudication of children in South Africa; rights of children in conflict with the law; diversion of juvenile offenders