

Juvenile Law Update

PRESENTATION FOR
JUVENILE JUSTICE VISION 20/20
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The Holy Grail of Recent Landmark Cases

United States Supreme Court

- **Roper v Simmons (2005)**
 - The Eighth and Fourteenth Amendments forbid imposition of the death penalty on offenders who were under the age of 18 when their crimes were committed.
- **Graham v Florida (2010)**
 - The Eighth and Fourteenth Amendments forbid imposition of the life without parole on offenders who were under the age of 18 when their non-homicide crimes were committed.
- **Miller v. Alabama (2012)**
 - The Eighth and Fourteenth Amendments forbids sentencing scheme that mandates life in prison without possibility of parole for juvenile homicide offenders
- **J.D.B. v North Carolina (2011)**
 - Police must consider a child's age when determining the issue of custody for purposes of providing *Miranda*

Juvenile Law Updates

And most recently. . .

- **Montgomery v Louisiana (1/25/16)**
 - Ruled that *Miller v. Alabama* is retroactive
 - *Miller* held that imposition of a mandatory life without parole sentence for a juvenile under the age of 18 (on the date of the offense) violates the Eight Amendment prohibition on "cruel and unusual punishment."
 - Michigan Supreme Court previously ruled it was not retroactive

The Evolving Face of Juvenile Justice: The Times They Are A-Changing...

RUSS MARLAN, EXECUTIVE BUREAU ADMINISTRATOR, MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS:

"There's been an evolution in the criminal justice system. We're moving from a model that gets tough on crime to one that is smart on crime and uses what works."



Seven horizontal lines for notes.

INITIATIVES TO REFORM JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM

Seven horizontal lines for notes.

RAISE THE AGE

The two major concerns raised by jurisdictions that have not yet raised the age (i.e., include 16 and 17 year-olds in the juvenile system are:

- 1. Cost
2. Public safety

Seven horizontal lines for notes.

The Justice Policy Institute



Recommends seven factors to keep costs manageable and to protect the public:

1. Expand Use of Diversion
2. Make Probation and Aftercare More Effective
3. Address Mental Health Needs Outside of the Deep End of the System
4. Reduce the Use of Pretrial Detention
5. Reduce Reliance on Facilities and Focus Resources on Community Based Approaches
6. Keep young people safe by complying with PREA
7. Improve Juvenile Justice System's Management of Resources and Strengthen Strategies to Serve Young People More Effectively

<http://www.justicepolicy.org/uploads/justicepolicy/documents/raisetheage.fullreport.pdf>

EXPAND USE OF DIVERSION

*Use Pre-Arrest and Pre-adjudication diversion

Focus on changing juvenile's behavior outside the justice system

Avoid negative consequences of justice system example

Diversion



MAKE PROBATION AND AFTERCARE APPROACHES MORE EFFECTIVE

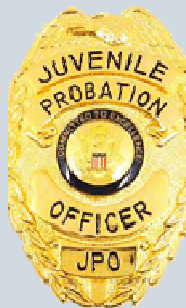
Eliminate the "following the rules" and the "keep an eye on them" approach to juvenile probation.


Engage the youth in behavior change

Partner with community organizations

Engage families


GOAL: LIMIT THE LIKELIHOOD THAT THE JUVENILE'S PROBATION WILL BE REVOKED





ADDRESS MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS: KEEP THEM OUT OF THE DEEP END

Use developmentally appropriate and community-based mental health services



REDUCE THE USE OF PRETRIAL DETENTION

Why? Because:

1. Youth who are detained are more likely to reoffend than youth who are not detained.
2. Mental health conditions are likely to worsen during detention
3. Detained youth are likely to have a hard time reconnecting in school, getting a job, or otherwise acclimating.

REDUCE RELIANCE ON FACILITIES

AND FOCUS RESOURCES ON COMMUNITY-BASED APPROACHES

Keeps the youth closer to home

Relies on local programming



KEEP YOUNG PEOPLE SAFE BY COMPLYING WITH THE PRISON RAPE ELIMINATION ACT

Focus on keeping the young person safe
Avoid having to physically alter facilities to create sections to keep juveniles separate from adults





STRENGTHEN STRATEGIES TO SERVE YOUNG PEOPLE MORE EFFECTIVELY

Developmentally appropriate programming
Use more effectively objective tools to assess what the juvenile needs to move past delinquency

MICHIGAN

Legislation

House Bill 4607, introduced in May of this year, proposes that all cases involving defendants under the age of 18 (as opposed to 17) be transferred to family court. Under this new legislation, "juvenile" would be defined as follows:

Sec. 1 (1)(i)

(i) "Juvenile" means a person who is less than 17-18 years of age who is the subject of a delinquency petition.

Why a Change in the Law Makes Sense



The Facts



<https://www.raisetheage.org/the-facts>

Innovative Programming in Michigan



http://www.mlive.com/news/grand-rapids/index.ssf/2017/03/truancy_pilot_hopes_to_keep_ki.html

http://www.mlive.com/news/grand-rapids/index.ssf/2017/03/kent_county_launches_girls_cou.html

Michigan Courts are recognizing that the traditional law and order approach does not speak to the very real needs of children.

Changes in Minor in Possession Law



Beginning in 2018, a minor in possession first offense will be treated as a civil infraction instead of a misdemeanor.

MIP violations impact thousands of Michigan minors every year. According to the Detroit Free Press, "[f]rom 2009 to 2013, the latest statistics available from the Michigan State Police, some 38,499 people under age 21 were arrested for some sort of minor in possession charge. And counties with college towns racked up some of the biggest numbers, including: Ingham County, home of Michigan State University, with 863 citations in 2013; Washtenaw County, home to the University of Michigan and Eastern Michigan University, with 401 MIP charges; and Isabella County, home of Central Michigan University, with 233 charges."

Questions?
