

ADULT COURT IS **NO PLACE FOR**
FLORIDA'S **CHILDREN.**

IT'S TIME TO FIX OUR BROKEN
SYSTEM BY RESTORING
FAIRNESS AND BALANCE.

KIDS
DON'T
BELONG
IN ADULT
PRISON

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FLORIDA PROSECUTES MORE CHILDREN AS ADULTS THAN ANY OTHER STATE

THE FACTS

PROSECUTORS HAVE SOLE POWER

About 98% of the more than 7,600 children prosecuted in Florida's adult courts since 2011 were transferred at the sole discretion of a prosecutor and without a hearing before a judge.

FLORIDA IS AN OUTLIER

Florida is one of only 13 states that allow prosecutors to decide which children are sent to adult court, and one of only three states that never allow a judge to review that decision.

A 10-YEAR-OLD?

Yes, really. In Florida, children as young as 10 years old have been prosecuted as adults.

NO PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

Children do not understand adult court proceedings and their parents are not allowed to participate.

NON-VIOLENT

Most of the children tried as adults are charged with non-violent offenses.

POOR CONDITIONS

When children are prosecuted as adults, they are held in the same jail as adults. Because children must be kept away from adults, children are often held in solitary confinement and regularly do not receive appropriate education as required by law.

RACIAL DISPARITIES

Children of color account for 62% of children arrested in Florida, but 78% of those prosecuted as adults.

BRANDED FOR LIFE

An adult felony conviction brands a child for life, diminishing opportunities for education and future employment. A child loses the right to vote before he or she even turns 18.

SOFT ON CRIME

Children prosecuted in adult court are more likely to reoffend.

[Adult court creates more crime, not less.](#)

PUBLIC OPINION

According to a 2017 Right on Crime public opinion poll:

- 70% of Floridians believe judges, not prosecutors, should decide whether to prosecute a child as an adult.
- 74% of Floridians believe children charged with crimes should stay in the juvenile justice system and not be transferred to the adult criminal system.

“From a moral standpoint it would be misguided to equate the failings of a minor with those of an adult, for a greater possibility exists that a minor’s character deficiencies will be reformed.”

ROPER V. SIMMONS, U.S. SUPREME COURT 2005

HOW DO WE FIX THIS UNFAIR SYSTEM AND TREAT KIDS LIKE KIDS?

1. Restore the role of judges to decide whether a child should be prosecuted as an adult.
2. Limit the offenses for which a child may be prosecuted as an adult.
3. Hold children prosecuted as adults in juvenile facilities only while awaiting trial.

SUPPORTERS

The Children’s Campaign
Project on Accountable Justice
The James Madison Institute
Southern Poverty Law Center
ACLU of Florida
Florida PTA
R Street
Campaign for Youth Justice
Families of Youth Incarcerated
Florida’s Children First
Florida Council of Churches
Florida Juvenile Justice Association
Florida Legal Services

Escambia Youth Justice Coalition
Jacksonville Juvenile Justice Coalition
National Congress of Black Women
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Florida Immigrant Coalition
Farmworker Self-Help
New Florida Majority
Public Interest Law Section of The Florida Bar
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