

No. 46588-4-II

COURT OF APPEALS, DIVISION II
OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

STATE OF WASHINGTON,

Respondent,

vs.

G.C.,

Appellant.

Clallam Cause No. 14-8-00083-3

The Honorable Judge Christopher Melly

**Appellant's Motion for Accelerated
Review and Opening Brief**

Jodi R. Backlund
Manek R. Mistry
Skylar T. Brett
Attorneys for Appellant

BACKLUND & MISTRY
P.O. Box 6490
Olympia, WA 98507
(360) 339-4870
Email: backlundmistry@gmail.com

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS i

TABLE OF AUTHORITIES iii

ISSUES AND ASSIGNMENTS OF ERROR..... 1

STATEMENT OF FACTS AND PRIOR PROCEEDINGS..... 1

ARGUMENT..... 3

I. The state presented insufficient evidence to find G.C. guilty..... 3

A. Standard of Review..... 3

B. No reasonable fact finder could have found beyond a reasonable doubt that G.C. exhibited the effects of alcohol.
4

II. The record does not support a manifest injustice disposition. 6

A. Standard of Review..... 6

B. A disposition above the standard range must be based on facts proved beyond a reasonable doubt, and the sentencing court must find beyond a reasonable doubt that the standard range would effectuate a manifest injustice. .. 7

C. The court’s finding that G.C. required treatment in a secure facility was not supported by substantial evidence.. 9

D. The court’s findings that G.C. had been the subject of other complaints resulting in diversion or a plea of guilty,

which are not included in his criminal history and that he had “exhausted all local resources” are not supported by substantial evidence. 10

III. G.C. was denied his Sixth and Fourteenth Amendment right to adequate notice of the state’s intent to seek a manifest injustice disposition and of the aggravating factors the prosecution intended to prove in support of such a disposition. 12

A. Standard of Review..... 12

B. Due process requires that a juvenile be given sufficient notice of the prosecution’s intent to seek a manifest injustice disposition and the allegations supporting such a disposition..... 12

CONCLUSION 14

TABLE OF AUTHORITIES

FEDERAL CASES

<i>Application of Gault</i> , 387 U.S. 1, 878 S.Ct. 1428, 18 L.Ed.2d 527 (1967)	13, 14
<i>Apprendi v. New Jersey</i> , 530 U.S. 466, 120 S.Ct. 2348, 147 L.Ed.2d 435 (2000).....	8, 13
<i>Blakely v. Washington</i> , 542 U.S. 296, 124 S.Ct. 2531, 159 L.Ed.2d 403 (2004).....	8

WASHINGTON STATE CASES

<i>In re C.B.</i> , 61 Wn. App. 280, 810 P.2d 518 (1991)	7, 8
<i>McDevitt v. Harbor View Med. Ctr.</i> , 179 Wn.2d 59, 316 P.3d 469 (2013)	12
<i>State v. A.M.</i> , 163 Wn. App. 414, 260 P.3d 229 (2011)	4
<i>State v. Colquitt</i> , 133 Wn. App. 789, 137 P.3d 892 (2006)	4, 5, 6
<i>State v. DeVries</i> , 149 Wn.2d 842, 72 P.3d 748 (2003).....	4, 5, 6
<i>State v. Hunley</i> , 175 Wn.2d 901, 287 P.3d 584 (2012).....	10
<i>State v. Lamar</i> , 180 Wn.2d 576, 327 P.3d 46 (2014)	12
<i>State v. Moro</i> , 117 Wn. App. 913, 73 P.3d 1029 (2003)	13
<i>State v. Rivas</i> , 168 Wn. App. 882, 278 P.3d 686 (2012) <i>review denied</i> , 176 Wn.2d 1007, 297 P.3d 68 (2013).....	13
<i>State v. Siers</i> , 174 Wn.2d 269, 274 P.3d 358 (2012)	13, 14
<i>State v. Smith</i> , 155 Wn.2d 496, 120 P.3d 559 (2005).....	4, 5, 6
<i>State v. T.E.C.</i> , 122 Wn. App. 9, 92 P.3d 263 (2004).....	6

<i>State v. Tai N.</i> , 127 Wn. App. 733, 113 P.3d 19 (2005)	6, 7, 8, 10, 11
<i>State v. Vasquez</i> , 178 Wn.2d 1, 309 P.3d 318 (2013).....	4
<i>State v. Zillyette</i> , 178 Wn.2d 153, 307 P.3d 712 (2013).....	3

CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS

U.S. Const. Amend. VI.....	3, 12
U.S. Const. Amend. XIV	1, 3, 12
Wash. Const. art. I, § 22.....	3, 12

WASHINGTON STATUTES

RCW 13.40.160	7, 8
RCW 13.40.230	7
RCW 66.44.270	5, 6

OTHER AUTHORITIES

JuCR 7.12.....	7, 11
RAP 2.5.....	12

ISSUES AND ASSIGNMENTS OF ERROR

1. The state presented insufficient evidence to find G.C. guilty of minor exhibiting the effects of alcohol in public.
2. The court's findings of act do not support its legal conclusion that G.C. exhibited the affects of liquor consumption.
3. No rational trier of fact could have found beyond a reasonable doubt that G.C. exhibited the effects of alcohol.
4. The trial court erred by entering Conclusion of Law No. 3. CP 30.
5. The trial court erred by entering Conclusion of Law No. 4. CP 31.

ISSUE 1: In order to convict for minor exhibiting the effects of alcohol in public, the state must prove that the accused "... by speech, manner, appearance, behavior, lack of coordination, or otherwise, did exhibit that he or she was under the influence of liquor." Here, the only evidence the state presented in support of this element was testimony that G.C. had "glassy eyes." Was the evidence insufficient for a rational trier of fact to find that G.C. demonstrated the effects of alcohol beyond a reasonable doubt?

6. The court violated G.C.'s Fourteenth Amendment right to due process by entering an aggravated sentence based on facts that had not been proved beyond a reasonable doubt.
7. The state failed to prove the factual allegations supporting G.C.'s manifest injustice disposition beyond a reasonable doubt.
8. The state did not present any evidence that G.C. required treatment in a secure environment.
9. The state did not present any evidence that G.C. had "exhausted local resources."
10. The state did not present any evidence that G.C. had prior diversions that were not included in his criminal history.

11. The trial court erred by entering factor No. 1. CP 29.
12. The trial court erred by entering factor No. 2. CP 29.
13. The trial court erred by entering factor No. 3. CP 29.
14. The trial court erred by entering the following Finding of Fact: “A sentence within the standard range would constitute a manifest injustice.” CP 8.
15. The trial court erred by entering the following Finding of Fact:

The following aggravating factors exist in this case:

There are other complaints which have resulted in diversion or a finding or plea of guilty which are not included as criminal history, and

Unless provided treatment in a secure environment then Respondent will not be engaged and there is a high likelihood of reoffense. Per expert recommendation that until treatment is provided MH issues cannot be addressed.

CP 8.

16. The trial court erred by entering the following Conclusions of Law:

Respondent is guilty of the offense as stated in the findings. A sentence within the standard range would constitute a manifest injustice.

CP 9.

ISSUE 2: The state must prove factual allegations in support of a manifest injustice determination beyond a reasonable doubt. Here, the court found that G.C. required treatment in a secure environment despite the fact that his uncontested psychological report recommended treatment in the community. Is the court’s finding that G.C. needed secured treatment unsupported by substantial evidence?

ISSUE 3: A prosecutor’s “bald assertions” to the court are not evidence. Here, the court entered findings in support of G.C.’s

manifest injustice disposition based exclusively on the prosecutor's statements during sentencing argument. Are the court's findings in support of C.G.'s manifest injustice disposition unsupported by substantial evidence?

17. The manifest injustice disposition was imposed in violation of G.C.'s Sixth and Fourteenth Amendment right to adequate notice.
18. The manifest injustice disposition was imposed in violation of G.C.'s state constitutional right to adequate notice.
19. The prosecutor failed to give G.C. adequate notice of the state's intent to seek a manifest injustice disposition.
20. The prosecutor failed to provide adequate notice of the allegations supporting the proposed manifest injustice disposition.

ISSUE 4: Both the Sixth Amendment and Wash. Const. art. I, § 22 require the state to provide adequate notice of the its intent to seek an aggravated sentence. Here, the prosecutor failed to provide advance notice of the state's intent to seek an aggravated sentence or of the facts on which such a disposition might rest. Did the court's imposition of a manifest injustice disposition deprive G.C. of his right to adequate notice?

STATEMENT OF FACTS AND PRIOR PROCEEDINGS

Brian Collins called the police to report that his son G.C. had been drinking. RP 9. He said that 14-year-old G.C. smelled of alcohol and had glassy eyes. RP 5, 6.

Hours later, Corporal Powless talked to G.C. RP 24. He didn't note any smell, or even bloodshot eyes, but did note glassy eyes. RP 24. Both Mr. Collins and Powless asked G.C. if he'd been drinking. G.C. admitted that he had. RP 9, 17. Neither asked him when he consumed alcohol, where, or how much. RP 8-11, 16-20.

The state charged G.C. with Minor in Public Place Exhibiting Effects of Liquor. CP 36. Specifically, the charge alleged that G.C.

Did exhibit the effects of having consumed liquor, to wit: that the Respondent had the odor of liquor on his breath and¹ ... by speech, manner, appearance, behavior, lack of coordination, or otherwise, did exhibit that he or she was under the influence of liquor... CP 36.

At trial, the prosecutor asked Mr. Collins if he made any observations other than glassy eyes and a smell of alcohol. Mr. Collins responded "No." RP 11. The prosecutor asked the same question of Powless, who also responded in the negative. RP 24.

¹ The other statutory prong was also listed in the Information, but at trial the state agreed (as did the court) that it was not at issue. RP 30; CP 36.

The defense moved to dismiss for insufficient evidence. G.C.'s counsel argued that the state had not presented evidence regarding G.C.'s "speech, manner, appearance, behavior, lack of coordination, or otherwise" to prove that he was exhibiting the effects of alcohol consumption. RP 25-29. The judge denied the motion, and entered a finding of guilty as charged. RP 30-33; CP 30-33.

G.C. underwent a pre-sentencing psychological evaluation. CP 16-28. The psychologist recommended local treatment. CP 27. He noted that G.C. was most likely to succeed with concurrent mental health and substance abuse treatment. CP 26-27. Accordingly, the psychological evaluation proposed simultaneous intensive outpatient substance abuse treatment and weekly outpatient psychotherapy. CP 27. The evaluator opined that "family treatment methods" were the most likely to be effective for G.C. CP 27-28.

No other professionals made sentencing recommendations for G.C. *See CP generally*; RP 35-53. The state did not present any evidence to rebut the psychologist's recommendation.

At sentencing, the state requested a manifest injustice sentence of the maximum possible penalty, 90 days. RP 40. The prosecutor argued that G.C. had prior diversion agreements that were not included in his offender score but did not provide any evidence to that effect. RP 41. The

prosecutor also argued that G.C. had exhausted local resources. RP 40-41. Again, the state did not provide any evidence to support that claim. RP 40-41.

The court issued a sentence of 90 days at JRA. CP 7, 29. The trial judge found that G.C. had exhausted all local resources, that he required treatment in a secure setting, and that he was highly likely to reoffend without secure treatment. CP 29. The court also found the aggravating factor that G.C. had other complaints, which have resulted in diversion or a finding of plea of guilty, which are not included as criminal history. CP 8.

G.C. timely appealed. CP 5.

ARGUMENT

I. THE STATE PRESENTED INSUFFICIENT EVIDENCE TO FIND G.C. GUILTY.

A. Standard of Review.

Constitutional violations are reviewed *de novo*. *State v. Zillyette*, 178 Wn.2d 153, 158, 307 P.3d 712 (2013).

A conviction must be reversed for insufficient evidence if, taking the evidence in the light most favorable to the state, no rational trier of fact

could have found guilt beyond a reasonable doubt. *State v. Vasquez*, 178 Wn.2d 1, 6, 309 P.3d 318 (2013).

Following a bench trial, review is limited to whether the court's unchallenged findings of fact support its conclusions of law. *State v. A.M.*, 163 Wn. App. 414, 419, 260 P.3d 229 (2011). Conclusions of law are reviewed *de novo*. *Id.*

B. No reasonable fact finder could have found beyond a reasonable doubt that G.C. exhibited the effects of alcohol.

The state cannot prove an element of an offense by presenting only evidence that could – but does not necessarily -- lead to the required factual conclusion. *See e.g. State v. Smith*, 155 Wn.2d 496, 504, 120 P.3d 559 (2005) (evidence that accused driver's license was revoked "in the first degree" insufficient to prove that it had been revoked because he was a habitual traffic offender); *State v. DeVries*, 149 Wn.2d 842, 850, 72 P.3d 748 (2003) (juvenile's statement that pill "could mess you up" was insufficient to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that she knew the pill was a controlled substance); *State v. Colquitt*, 133 Wn. App. 789, 794, 137 P.3d 892 (2006) (officer testimony that a substance appeared to be cocaine insufficient to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that accused possessed a controlled substance).

Given only ambiguous evidence, no rational trier of fact could find that the state has proved an element beyond a reasonable doubt. *Id.* This is because “the existence of a fact cannot rest upon guess, speculation, or conjecture.” *Colquitt*, 133 Wn. App. at 796.

Here, in order to find G.C. guilty, the state was required to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that he (1) had the odor of liquor on his breath, and (2) “by speech, manner, appearance, behavior, lack of coordination, or otherwise, exhibit[ted] that he or she [was] under the influence of liquor.” RCW 66.44.270(2)(b).

The only evidence the state presented – and the only finding the court entered -- to meet this second element was testimony that G.C. had “glassy eyes.” RP 11, 24; CP 30-32. But “glassy eyes” could be evidence that G.C. had used some other drug, was tired, was nervous, suffered from allergies or another medical condition, had been playing video games or looking at a computer screen for a long time, had low blood sugar, or had been crying. The court’s conclusion that G.C.’s “glassy eyes” demonstrated that he was under the influence of alcohol was based on “guess, speculation, or conjecture.” *Colquitt*, 133 Wn. App. at 796. Accordingly, the court’s “glassy eyes” finding is insufficient to establish beyond a reasonable doubt that G.C. exhibited the effects of liquor. *Id.*; *Smith*, 155 Wn.2d at 504; *DeVries*, 149 Wn.2d at 850.

The court attempted to cure this evidentiary shortcoming by pointing out that G.C. admitted to drinking. CP 32. But, in order to convict G.C., the state had to prove that he demonstrated the physical effects of alcohol consumption, not merely that he had been drinking. RCW 66.44.270(2)(b). Accordingly, G.C.’s admission was irrelevant to the elements of the offense.

The state presented evidence insufficient for a rational trier of fact to find beyond a reasonable doubt that G.C. exhibited the effects of liquor. *Colquitt*, 133 Wn. App. at 796; *Smith*, 155 Wn.2d at 504; *DeVries*, 149 Wn.2d at 850. His disposition must be reversed. *Id.*

II. THE RECORD DOES NOT SUPPORT A MANIFEST INJUSTICE DISPOSITION.

A. Standard of Review.

Whether factual findings support a departure from the standard sentencing range is a question of law reviewed *de novo*. *State v. T.E.C.*, 122 Wn. App. 9, 18, 92 P.3d 263 (2004).

In order to impose a manifest injustice disposition, a juvenile court “must find beyond a reasonable doubt that ‘the defendant and the standard range for the offense presents a clear danger to society.’” *State v. Tai N.*, 127 Wn. App. 733, 741, 113 P.3d 19 (2005). Any facts supporting this finding must also be proved beyond a reasonable doubt. *Id.* Although

review is for substantial evidence, the evidence must be stronger than would be sufficient to prove facts by a preponderance of the evidence.² *Id.*; *In re C.B.*, 61 Wn. App. 280, 285-86, 810 P.2d 518 (1991); RCW 13.40.230(2).

Because of this, a manifest injustice sentence must be reversed on appeal unless a rational trier of fact could (1) find the facts supporting the disposition beyond a reasonable doubt and (2) find that a standard range sentence would effectuate a manifest injustice beyond a reasonable doubt. *Tai N.*, 127 Wn. App. at 741; *C.B.*, 61 Wn. App. at 285-86.

The court must specify the parts of the record that are material to the finding of manifest injustice. JuCR 7.12(e).

B. A disposition above the standard range must be based on facts proved beyond a reasonable doubt, and the sentencing court must find beyond a reasonable doubt that the standard range would effectuate a manifest injustice.

Generally, a standard range disposition is adequate to achieve the goals of the Juvenile Justice Act. *Tai N.*, 107 Wn. App. at 745. This includes rehabilitation of the juvenile offender. *Id.* A sentence above the standard range may only be imposed if disposition within the range “would effectuate a manifest injustice.” RCW 13.40.160 (2).

² The nature of the substantial evidence analysis varies based on the burdens of proof and production in the lower court. *C.B.*, 61 Wn. App. at 285-86. Thus, where the burden is

Due process requires that factual allegations supporting a sentence beyond the standard range must be proven beyond a reasonable doubt. *Blakely v. Washington*, 542 U.S. 296, 313-14, 124 S.Ct. 2531, 159 L.Ed.2d 403 (2004); *Apprendi v. New Jersey*, 530 U.S. 466, 490, 120 S.Ct. 2348, 147 L.Ed.2d 435 (2000). This standard is also required by statute. RCW 13.40.160(2); *Tai N.*, 127 Wn. App. at 740 (holding that the clear and convincing evidence standard is equivalent to the beyond a reasonable doubt standard required by *Apprendi*).

A juvenile court's reasons for imposing a manifest injustice sentence "must be clear on the record and must convincingly support the conclusion." *Tai N.*, 127 Wn. App. at 743. In reviewing a manifest injustice determination, the appellate court engages in a three-part inquiry. *Id.* First, the reasons given for the determination must be supported by substantial evidence from which a rational person could find the facts beyond a reasonable doubt. *Id.*; see also *C.B.*, 61 Wn. App. at 285-86. Second, those reasons must support the determination of manifest injustice beyond a reasonable doubt. *Tai N.*, 127 Wn. App. at 743. Finally, the sentence must be neither clearly too excessive nor too lenient. *Id.*

proof beyond a reasonable doubt, the state must introduce "evidence from which a rational trier of fact could find [the required facts] beyond a reasonable doubt." *Id.*, at 285.

Here, the state did not prove any of the facts supporting G.C.'s manifest injustice sentence beyond a reasonable doubt. Accordingly, the second and third steps of the analysis are superfluous.

C. The court's finding that G.C. required treatment in a secure facility was not supported by substantial evidence.

A psychologist evaluated G.C. prior to his sentencing hearing. CP 16-28. That expert recommended that G.C. be provided outpatient substance abuse and mental health treatment in the community. CP 27. He suggested that family therapy methods were the most likely to be successful for G.C. CP 27-28. The evaluator noted that G.C. should be admonished that failure to participate in such outpatient treatment would result in his placement in a secure facility. CP 27. The state did not prevent any evidence or expert opinion to rebut the recommendation in G.C.'s psychological evaluation. RP 35-53; *See CP generally*.

Still, the court found that G.C. required treatment in a secured environment "per expert's opinion." CP 29³, *See also* CP 8⁴. The court also found that there was a high likelihood that G.C. would reoffend

³ The court's order states that G.C. requires treatment in a secure facility "per expert's opinion agreement also (sic)." CP 29. But G.C. did not agree to that finding. Indeed, his attorney argued that he should be sentenced to credit for time served. RP 47.

⁴ The court provided that "per expert recommendation that until [substance abuse] treatment is provided MH issues cannot be addressed." CP 8. But that claim is not included in the expert's report. CP 16-28. To the contrary, the psychologist opined that G.C. required

unless treated in a secure facility. CP 8; CP 29. But those factual findings were not proved beyond a reasonable doubt at sentencing. *Tai N.*, 127 Wn. App. at 743. Indeed, the court’s findings are not supported by any evidence at all. RP 35-53; *See CP generally*.

Substantial evidence does not support the court’s findings that G.C. required treatment in a secure facility. *Tai N.*, 127 Wn. App. at 743. Those findings must be vacated and cannot provide the basis for the court’s manifest injustice disposition. *Id.*

D. The court’s findings that G.C. had been the subject of other complaints resulting in diversion or a plea of guilty, which are not included in his criminal history and that he had “exhausted all local resources” are not supported by substantial evidence.

A prosecutor’s “bare allegations” to the court are not evidence “whether asserted orally or in a written document.” *State v. Hunley*, 175 Wn.2d 901, 915, 287 P.3d 584 (2012).

Here, the court based its manifest injustice disposition in part on a finding that G.C. had exhausted local resources. CP 29. The court also found the aggravating factor that “there are other complaints which have resulted in diversion or a finding of a plea of guilty which are not included as criminal history.” CP 8.

contemporaneous treatment for his substance abuse and mental health issues. CP 26-27. The expert recommended that such treatment occur in the community. CP 27.

Those two findings are based exclusively on the prosecutor’s “bare allegations” to the court during argument at G.C.’s sentencing hearing. RP 40-41. The state did not provide any evidence in support of those claims. RP 35-53.

The court’s findings that G.C. had exhausted all local resources and had prior complaints that were not included in his criminal history are not supported by substantial evidence. *Tai N.*, 127 Wn. App. at 743. Actually, because those findings were based only on the prosecutor’s remarks, they did not have any evidentiary foundation at all.⁵ The court’s findings related to local resources and prior complaints cannot provide the basis for G.C.’s manifest injustice disposition. *Id.*

Because all of the court’s findings supporting G.C.’s sentence must be vacated, the court’s order does not establish—beyond a reasonable doubt—that a sentence within the standard range would effectuate a manifest injustice. *Tai N.*, 127 Wn. App. at 745. G.C.’s disposition must be reversed and his case remanded for sentencing within the standard range. *Id.*

⁵ Additionally, the court failed to specify the parts of the record upon which its findings were based, in violation of JuCR 7.12(e).

III. G.C. WAS DENIED HIS SIXTH AND FOURTEENTH AMENDMENT RIGHT TO ADEQUATE NOTICE OF THE STATE’S INTENT TO SEEK A MANIFEST INJUSTICE DISPOSITION AND OF THE AGGRAVATING FACTORS THE PROSECUTION INTENDED TO PROVE IN SUPPORT OF SUCH A DISPOSITION.

A. Standard of Review.

Constitutional issues are reviewed *de novo*. *McDevitt v. Harbor View Med. Ctr.*, 179 Wn.2d 59, 64, 316 P.3d 469 (2013). Manifest error affecting a constitutional right may be raised for the first time on appeal.⁶ RAP 2.5(a)(3).

B. Due process requires that a juvenile be given sufficient notice of the prosecution’s intent to seek a manifest injustice disposition and the allegations supporting such a disposition.

Due process entitles juveniles to adequate notice of the charges against them. U.S. Const. Amends. VI, XIV; art. I, § 22; *Application of Gault*, 387 U.S. 1, 34, 878 S.Ct. 1428, 18 L.Ed.2d 527 (1967); *State v.*

⁶ An error is manifest if it “actually affected [the defendant’s] rights at trial.” *State v. Lamar*, 180 Wn.2d 576, 583, 327 P.3d 46 (2014). To secure review, an appellant need only make “a *plausible* showing that the error resulted in actual prejudice, which means that the claimed error had practical and identifiable consequences in the trial.” *Id.* (emphasis added). The appellant must show that the trial judge could have foreseen and corrected the error and that the record contains sufficient facts to review the claim. *Id.*

Here, the state’s failure to provide G.C. with notice of its intent to seek a manifest injustice disposition is of constitutional magnitude and is manifest on the record. No additional evidence is necessary to demonstrate that the state failed to give G.C. notice on the record. Additionally, the trial judge could have foreseen and corrected the error below. *Id.* Accordingly, G.C. may raise this issue for the first time on review. RAP 2.5(a)(3).

Rivas, 168 Wn. App. 882, 887, 278 P.3d 686 (2012) *review denied*, 176 Wn.2d 1007, 297 P.3d 68 (2013).⁷

In the adult context, the sixth amendment right to “be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation” requires that the accused be given adequate notice of aggravating sentencing factors to prepare a defense. *State v. Siers*, 174 Wn.2d 269, 277, 274 P.3d 358 (2012) (interpreting *Apprendi* 530 U.S. 466. Adequate notice must be given prior to the proceeding at which the state seeks to prove the circumstances warranting a sentence above the standard range.⁸ *Id.* Due process requires that such notice appear on the record.

A juvenile is entitled to sufficient notice of the state’s intent to seek a manifest injustice disposition, and the factual foundation for such a disposition. Without adequate notice, a juvenile facing an aggravated sentence is denied the opportunity to “mount an adequate defense.” *Siers*, 174 Wn.2d at 277. Notice must set forth the alleged misconduct with sufficient particularity to permit the juvenile a reasonable opportunity to prepare a defense. *Gault*, 387 U.S. at 33.

⁷ Although *Rivas* addresses the adequacy of notice in the adult context, the U.S. Supreme Court explicitly extended the right to juveniles as well in *Gault*. 387 U.S. at 34.

⁸ Division III has held that notice of the state’s intent to seek a manifest injustice disposition is not required because it is a possibility in every case. *State v. Moro*, 117 Wn. App. 913, 923, 73 P.3d 1029 (2003). *Moro*, however, was decided before *Siers* and relied heavily on the lack of any requirement of advance notice in the adult context. *Moro*, 117 Wn. App. at 920-23. *Moro* was effectively overruled *sub silentio* by *Siers*. *Siers*, 174 Wn.2d at 277.

Here, the record does not demonstrate that G.C. was ever provided notice of the state's intent to seek a manifest injustice disposition or the aggravating circumstances on which it planned to rely. *See* RP, CP *generally*. Without advance notice, G.C. had no opportunity to consult with counsel about the factual allegations, or to prepare his defense against the allegations.

Because G.C. was not provided with adequate notice, his manifest injustice disposition violated his rights to due process and adequate notice. *Gault*, 387 U.S. at 33; *Siers*, 174 Wn.2d at 277. G.C. did not know the factual allegations against him, and was not given time to prepare his defense. *Siers*, 174 Wn.2d at 277. His sentence must be overturned and his case remanded for sentencing within the standard range. *Id.*

CONCLUSION

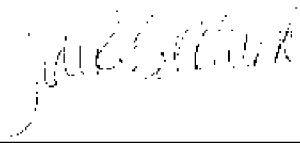
The state presented insufficient evidence for a rational trier of fact to find beyond a reasonable doubt that G.C. exhibited the effects of alcohol. G.C.'s adjudication must be reversed.

In the alternative, the state did not present evidence sufficient for the court to find beyond a reasonable doubt that a sentence within the standard range would effectuate a manifest injustice. G.C. was also denied his constitutional right to adequate notice of the state's intent to

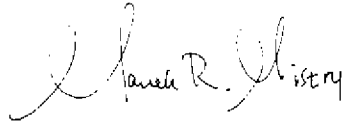
seek a manifest injustice disposition. G.C.'s case must be remanded for a sentence within the standard range.

Respectfully submitted on November 25, 2014.

BACKLUND AND MISTRY



Jodi R. Backlund, WSBA No. 22917
Attorney for the Appellant



Manek R. Mistry, WSBA No. 22922
Attorney for the Appellant



Skylar T. Brett, WSBA No. 45475
Attorney for Appellant

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that on today's date:

I mailed a copy of Appellant's Motion for Accelerated Review/Opening Brief, postage prepaid, to:

G.C.
Echo Glen Children's Center
33010 S.E. 99th Street
Snoqualmie, WA 98065

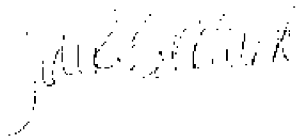
I delivered an electronic version of the brief, using the Court's filing portal, to:

Clallam County Prosecuting Attorney
lschrawyer@co.clallam.wa.us

I filed the Appellant's Motion for Accelerated Review/Opening Brief electronically with the Court of Appeals, Division II, through the Court's online filing system.

I CERTIFY UNDER PENALTY OF PERJURY UNDER THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON THAT THE FOREGOING IS TRUE AND CORRECT.

Signed at Olympia, Washington on November 25, 2014.



Jodi R. Backlund, WSBA No. 22917
Attorney for the Appellant

BACKLUND & MISTRY

November 25, 2014 - 2:38 PM

Transmittal Letter

Document Uploaded: 465884-Appellant's Brief.pdf

Case Name: State v. G.C.

Court of Appeals Case Number: 46588-4

Is this a Personal Restraint Petition? Yes No

The document being Filed is:

Designation of Clerk's Papers Supplemental Designation of Clerk's Papers

Statement of Arrangements

Motion: _____

Answer/Reply to Motion: _____

Brief: Appellant's

Statement of Additional Authorities

Cost Bill

Objection to Cost Bill

Affidavit

Letter

Copy of Verbatim Report of Proceedings - No. of Volumes: _____

Hearing Date(s): _____

Personal Restraint Petition (PRP)

Response to Personal Restraint Petition

Reply to Response to Personal Restraint Petition

Petition for Review (PRV)

Other: _____

Comments:

No Comments were entered.

Sender Name: Manek R Mistry - Email: backlundmistry@gmail.com

A copy of this document has been emailed to the following addresses:

lschrawyer@co.clallam.wa.us