

From: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK
Sent: Tuesday, April 29, 2014 3:45 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: SHACKLING JUVENILES - COMMENT

Rules comment for you

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From: karynoldfield@aol.com [mailto:karynoldfield@aol.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 29, 2014 3:44 PM
To: OFFICE RECEPTIONIST, CLERK
Subject: SHACKLING JUVENILES - COMMENT

Hello. My name is Karyn Oldfield and I have been a juvenile public defender for Benton/Franklin Counties for almost 15 years. I was an AAG prior to becoming a public defender, representing CPS-DCFS, in the Tri-Cities area. As such, my entire legal career has been in juvenile court representing troubled youth and families.

I am writing this email to respectfully urge the court to consider adopting the proposed rule making the shackling of juveniles the exception rather than the norm and based on an individualized basis by the court. In the many years I have been involved in juvenile court, only a small handful of situations have occurred involving a disruptive youth (I could count these instances on one hand; most involve detained youth trying to talk to a friend or visitor.) A detention officer is always standing near the incarcerated youth and the courtroom also has security personnel. The vast majority of my incarcerated clients are simply scared and anxious about what is going to happen to them. They feel lonely, humiliated and utterly confused as to the process. It is heartbreaking to have a tiny 12 year old shuffle up to the defense table in shackles and chains, stand next to me and cry in front of the judge and people in the audience, while we discuss the case, most of which they don't understand. It is especially unfortunate to see kids are detained, shackled and paraded before the judge simply because they missed school. Is this really necessary? Are they really a flight risk? The answer is clearly "no." Even hard core gang members or repeat offenders know they will suffer serious consequences if they are disruptive in court and they simply don't do it.

Shackling *kids* is absolutely unnecessary in my opinion. The only reason I have been told why kids are shackled in Benton/Franklin juvenile court is "they always have been." No reasoning or justification, except no one can remember a time when they weren't. Please change this situation.

Once again, please consider adopting this proposed rule against shackling juveniles. Thank you for your consideration.

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