

September 29, 2022

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing this letter today to express my extreme concern for new court rule 7.16 that has been put into place regarding minors in the criminal court system. My understanding of the court rule 7.16 to "not criminalize or issue warrants for minors", while I understand the theory of wanting to rehabilitate minors and get them on the right path I do not agree with the process that has been put into place to do this.

My son is on probation currently and we are having issues with him running away and other things, we used to be able to team up with the juvenile department while he was on probation to help give him rules and restrictions and most importantly consequences of not following these rules and restrictions given. Now it seems the courts and juvenile probation departments hands are tied not being able to enforce these rules by issuing warrants for kid who need one. What is the point if a judge gives release conditions to a minor, has the minor and parents agree to adhere to them if when the minor comes home, they know they can run off or be defiant because there is no consequences to their actions. If they are told there will be consequences or warrants issued when you violate these terms and there is no follow through that shows these kids they can do what they want and no one can hold them accountable. Is that really the message we as a society want to be teaching our kids who will soon be our adults?

The parents, courts, juvenile departments have our hands are tied at this point by the court ruling. This isn't helping rehabilitate minors, this is teaching them they can do what they want when they want and until they are of legal age there is no consequences. When they finally reach 18 guess who is going to be in prison for years, these same minors who got to do what they wanted even when committing crimes and doing unthinkable things to others.

Please help us and other parents, courts and juvenile programs actually help these kids. Help us find programs that work, while holding these kid accountable and an appropriate level for their age. Make the points truly count for repeat offenders before they are in the adult system and it's too late for their futures.



I fear for my son's future at this point with nowhere to turn legally and not having a good influence in his biological mom who's has spent her entire adult life in and out of jail. I fear he will not learn the error of his ways until it is too late to correct, and his future will be in jail. There are so many good kids and parents out there that need the support of the police, jails, counselors, and juvenile departments to get through some tough formative years, please don't take away the ability for the system to work and the ability of staff to do an effective job.

Please don't let this new court ruling stand, give the authorities the ability to do their job and truly help these minors before it gets worse.

Thank You,

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