

Minors Should Not Be Tried as Adults for Committing Violent Crimes

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Course Name

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Introduction and Thesis Statement

Violent crimes committed by minors may be attributed to several factors, such as bullying in school, a poor family environment, and prior abuse. These factors do not excuse minors from committing any type of crime, particularly violent crimes, but these circumstances should be considered in court cases when trying such individuals. Minors are vulnerable to their surroundings and may have considerable mental, emotional, psychological, and social issues in their lives; therefore, they should not be tried as adults, and instead, should be provided with rehabilitation and support, as it is necessary to work through these issues, restore normalcy to their lives, recognize right from wrong, and prevent further crimes from taking place.

Analysis of the Problem

Many juveniles are tried as adults due to an imbalance of power and influence that has a negative impact on younger offenders (Bernard & Kurlychek, 2010). There is significant concern about trying these offenders as adults, as this poses a risk to their possible rehabilitation in the future. When juveniles are tried as adults, they may be unable to refrain from future crimes because they are not provided with the type of environment that supports recovery; rather, it has a tendency to promote continuous negative behavior (Piquero et.al, 2010). In this context, juveniles are likely to be subject to additional at-risk behaviors when they are tried as adults and incarcerated as a result (Piquero et.al, 2010). It is important to identify resources that will be effective in promoting their recovery rather than their continued descent into a lifetime of crime that could impact the remainder of their lives (Piquero et.al, 2010).

Juvenile rehabilitation is the primary means of working with these offenders in a manner that will help them mature in positive ways, learn from a negative situation, and complete the transition into a positive and reinforcing environment. Piquero et.al argue that there may be

public support in place for the development of procedural methods and strategies that favor rehabilitation over other avenues, such as incarceration (2010). This is a complex issue with many areas to consider, such as the following: 1) economic: too many juvenile offenders in the criminal justice system is far too expensive to manage; 2) social: incarcerated juveniles face critical challenges in their ability to become functioning members of society; 3) political: legal requirements lead to complex circumstances for juvenile offenders; 4) inequality in that juveniles are not the same as adults with respect to maturity and growth; and 5) ethical/moral in that incarcerating vulnerable juveniles with adult offenders is ethically and morally irresponsible (Scott & Steinberg, 2010).

The factors that are associated with rehabilitating juvenile offenders require further consideration, but by allowing them to face the same consequences as adults, there is a much greater risk of long-term failure for these individuals if they are consolidated with adult offenders. Therefore, it is suspected that they will achieve greater support and encouragement if they are permitted to learn from their behaviors and rehabilitate under specific conditions. This will restore some degree of confidence in the criminal justice system and support the possible reintroduction of some minors into society.

Conclusion

Juvenile offenders who commit violent crimes should not be tried as adults because some juveniles, depending on the circumstances, possess the ability to recover, rehabilitate, and return to society in the future. Therefore, these factors must be taken into consideration when juvenile punishments are considered. It is important for the criminal justice system to take its responsibility to juveniles seriously and recognize the importance of helping these offenders return to a crime-free life. This is far more important than placing them in an already

overcrowded system that does not have sufficient time and resources to support their growth and maturity.

References

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