



STATEMENT FROM OJRC IN RESPONSE TO ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE  
MULTNOMAH COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE OF A POLICY CHANGE  
ON ELIGIBILITY OF JUVENILES CHARGED WITH CERTAIN MEASURE 11  
OFFENSES TO PLEAD IN JUVENILE COURT

June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016

“We commend District Attorney Rod Underhill and his office for announcing a new policy that provides additional options for resolution for juveniles 15 to 17 years old charged with certain crimes. The policy change acknowledges and is consistent with the science and the need to treat kids as kids and not as adults. It gives due recognition to the importance of looking at the individual circumstances of each person.

This is a welcome development, but we encourage DA Underhill and his office to go further. The default position should be that minors are kept in juvenile court and not automatically waived through to adult court. Only in rare cases should juveniles be tried as adults. Moreover, the burden should be on the state to demonstrate that a young person should be tried as an adult, not on teenagers to show that they should not.”

*Statement to be attributed to Bobbin Singh, Executive Director, Oregon Justice Resource Center*

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