



REDUCING PATHWAYS TO ADULT COURT: ENDING MANDATORY BINDOVER IN OHIO



WHAT IS BINDOVER?

KIDS IN THE ADULT COURT SYSTEM

A bindover occurs when the juvenile court judge transfers jurisdiction to the adult criminal court. Mandatory bindover means the juvenile judge is required to send the youth to adult court to be prosecuted and sentenced as an adult. In Ohio, mandatory bindover applies to children as young as 14 years old.

CHILDREN ARE NOT ADULTS

INDIVIDUALIZED DETERMINATIONS MATTER

- Youth's brains are still developing. Established science finds youth are fundamentally different than adults. They are less culpable legally and have greater potential for change.
- Mandatory bindover causes devastating, lifelong effects. Youth in adult facilities are denied age-appropriate rehabilitative services, experience solitary confinement, and are victimized at high rates.
- Mandatory bindover does not reduce crime. Research consistently shows bindover increases future re-offending, which undermines public safety.



LEGISLATIVE TRENDS IN OTHER STATES

TRENDING AWAY FROM ADULTIFICATION OF KIDS

- Removing children from adult jails and prisons
- Reducing the pathways for children into adult court
- Raising the age of juvenile court jurisdiction
- Reducing extreme sentencing options for children

RACIAL DISPARITIES

BINDOVER DISPROPORTIONATELY IMPACTS BLACK YOUTH

Over the past five years, Black youth have represented around 80% of youth bound over in Ohio.

In 2020, over 71% of youth transferred to adult court were Black, yet only 13% of Ohio's population is Black.

Recommendations

Eliminate Mandatory Bindover

Prioritize Retaining Children in the Juvenile Justice System

Invest in Data Collection and Analysis

Eliminate Racial Disparities

Additional resources are available at:
www.childrenslawky.org