



“It is beyond dispute that children will often feel bound to submit to police questioning when an adult in the same circumstances would feel free to leave. [...] The pressure of custodial interrogation is so immense that it can induce a frighteningly high percentage of people to confess to crimes they never committed.”



Justice Sonia Sotomayor, [JDB v. North Carolina](#) (2011)

Interrogations of adolescents by law enforcement, particularly with coercive or deceptive means, are more likely to result in false confessions and wrongful convictions. Socio-economic status and foster care involvement drive these unjust outcomes causing further disproportionate consequences for this vulnerable population.

- Only 1 in 5 youth [understand](#) *Miranda* rights
- Two-thirds (62%) of youth incorrectly believe that they will be [penalized](#) for exercising their right to remain silent
- Almost all 14-year-olds (96%) do not understand the consequences of waiving *Miranda* rights
- Adolescents are 2 to 3 times more likely to [falsely confess](#) than adults. Out of 340 [exonerations](#), 42% were adolescents and 13% were adults.

This bill addresses the need to protect the constitutional rights of young people by requiring:

- the interrogation to be videotaped.
- the presence of an attorney for the entirety of the interrogation, including the recitation of *Miranda* rights, when a young person has a pending felony charge.

This bill protects the rights of young people facing serious consequences in the court system:

- youth must be adequately advised of their rights and have systemic protections in place to ensure comprehension of the ramifications of their statements and actions throughout the process.
- all youth, including those who are indigent, must have equitable access to an attorney during interrogation, ensuring the protection of the young person’s rights is not conditioned by their socioeconomic background.

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