

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION ACT

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE



1966

Kent v. United States

"The juvenile court movement was founded on the concept that children, unlike adults, are susceptible to rehabilitation and are not fully responsible for their actions."



1967

In re Gault v. United States

"The basic premise of the juvenile court system is that children are different from adults – less mature, less responsible, and more amenable to rehabilitation."



1967 - 1974

SCOTUS provided legal protections, but **little** guidance for practice within the system. There was no standards for how children should be treated, unfettered discretion for judges, and unconscionable outcomes for kids.



1974

Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act

To address the concerns of the youth justice system, the 93rd United States Congress passed JJDPA on September 7, 1974.

4 CORE REQUIREMENTS OF THE JJDPA

DEINSTITUTIONALIZE STATUS OFFENSES

Status offenses, behaviors that would not be considered crimes if committed by adults, may not result in confinement or detention.

Original 1974 Legislation

SIGHT AND SOUND SEPARATION

Youth in secure confinement must remain completely separate from incarcerated adults, with no visual or verbal contact allowed anywhere in the facility.

Original 1974 Legislation

JAIL REMOVAL

With few exceptions, no youth may be detained in an adult jail. In the rare occurrence where a young person is held in an adult jail, they must be kept separate by sight and sound from adults and released within six hours.

1980 Reauthorization

DISPROPORTIONATE MINORITY CONTACT

Mandates that states identify, assess, and address the overrepresentation of youth of color at all stages of the juvenile justice system.

1992 Reauthorization

Follow along this fall as we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the JJDPA and observe Youth Justice Month by releasing a series of infographics!