

Juvenile crime issues in the criminal justice system assignment

Law



Now we all know there can and will be more on the reasons why people commit crimes, but what is the big deal? What if the person committing that crime is just a child? Juvenile courts are designed a bit differently than that of the traditional adult court system. One main difference for this is because there is a belief that younger minds can still be influenced and the rehabilitation aspects of punishment can be of greater value and benefit.

On the other hand to this, an adult is viewed as set in their ways, they do/should understand the differences in right and wrong, and would more than likely be reluctant to go through rehabilitation in the same manner as the child, and less successfully. Other differences are, their constitutional rights, sentencing options, and terminology used while in court proceedings, as they all differ in juvenile court than adult court. We must maintain a level of discretion, even if they've done wrong, they're still young enough to change for the better, and we mustn't give up on them.

Adults who commit petty crimes and first offences result in probation or a felony conviction resulting in a prison sentence. Juvenile sentencing is called a disposition order, given from the judge, that sentences the minor to serve time in a juvenile correction facility, receive mandated counseling, or placed on house arrest. Terminology between juvenile court and adult court is also different. An adult in court is called a defendant with the conclusion on being called a verdict. A juvenile in court is called a respondent with the conclusion of court being called the adjudication.

Troubled juveniles are often times called juvenile delinquents. Delinquency is "the failure to do what law of duty requires, an offence or a misdemeanor; a

miss deed, a debit or other financial obligation on which payment is overdue" (The Free Dictionary, 2012). Juvenile delinquent is a person under 18 years old " who is found to have committed a crime in states which have been declared by law that a minor lacks responsibility, therefore may not be sentenced as an adult" (The Free Dictionary, 2012).

Juvenile delinquency is from small crimes that adults wouldn't normally be charged for, such as drinking under the legal age, breaking a set curfew, skipping classes, and sexual misconduct, or inappropriate activities. These violations are more for parents to try and correct rather than law enforcement officers. There is however certain things juveniles are prohibited from doing that adults are able to do, such as carrying a firearm. This type of offense is/ would be called a status offense. " A status offense is an action that is prohibited only to a certain class of people, and most often applied only to offenses committed by minors.

In the United States, the term status offense also refers to an offense such as a traffic violation where motive is not a consideration in determining guilt. In the United Kingdom and Europe, this type of status offense may be termed a regulatory offense". The variables that correlate with juvenile crime rates can be peer pressure, poverty, delinquency, alcoholism, bullying depression, trauma, childhood aggression, family function, school performance, and even neighborhood environments that can even lead to juvenile delinquency.

There are many variables, but research shows only one conclusion, and that is there is no one single cause for delinquency. There is no single set path

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that will lead a juvenile to crime. However, research has not clearly identified all the causal pathways that lead to delinquency or the factors that cause different individuals to take different paths. There is a general agreement among policy makers that show certain studies being the est.. Way to gain information on the causes of delinquency. [This type of investigation involves repeated contacts with the same individuals so that patterns of development can be studied.

The strength of the longitudinal design is that it permits researchers to sort out which factors precede changes in offending, to predict such changes, and to do so independent of other factors. With the aid of repeated measures, it is possible to identify pathways to delinquency, each with unique causal factors that, like delinquency itself, may change with time. Successfully completing this will revive the information needed to develop truly effective intervention programs] (GOOD, 1997). Setting up programs aimed at reducing juvenile crime is an effective way to reduce violence and delinquency.

Programs aimed at learning skills that can help control emotions and behavior would prove to be a great program. A program set up against bullying by informing consequences against bullying and aggression. This could possibly reduce bullying and aggressive behavior by a better understanding and impact of bullying. A program set up to teach youth how to say no to peer pressure. These programs are designed to teach drug myths from facts, use critical thinking, and teach decision-making that can significantly reduce alcohol and tobacco use.

With so many possible variables that correlate with juvenile crime rates, and no main issue to focus on, it is hard to prevent these types of behaviors. The most important thing to do then is to be preventative. Programs are great preventative steps in controlling and preventing some juvenile crime, but the main thing everyone should focus on is being there for our youth. Parents play the biggest part in their children's lives and have the most influence.