

## ***NJ Youth Justice Initiative***

NJPC supports parents and caregivers whose children are involved in the Juvenile Justice system through Advocacy, Training, Support Groups and Educational Services to understand their rights and responsibilities.

### ***What can an Advocate do for you?***

Advocates accompany parents to court appointments, probation meetings, attorney meetings, etc. Our goal is to support families raising children and youth involved in Juvenile Justice, while fostering a climate in New Jersey that decreases juvenile delinquency, and ultimately "keeps families together."

*If your child is currently charged with a crime or offense, please contact Sydney Rose at 973-989-8866.*

***“Families have the potential to be the greatest source of positive change and support for youth in the Juvenile Justice System”***

The New Jersey Parents' Caucus is a non-profit organization governed and staffed by parents and caregivers of children with serious emotional and behavioral challenges. Since 1990, NJPC has worked diligently with parents, caregivers, family members, government agencies, legislators, interested professionals and other organizations to ensure that the needs of New Jersey families raising children with emotional and behavioral challenges are met. NJPC provides information & referral services, outreach, training & education programs and advocacy in Mental Health, DYFS, Juvenile Justice, Special Education & DDD.



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## ***New Jersey Parent's Caucus:***



## ***NJ Youth Justice Initiative***

*“It's important that people know that these are just kids, and young kids too.”*

***Helping Parents  
Help their Children***

[www.newjerseyparentscaucus.org](http://www.newjerseyparentscaucus.org)

If you recognize any of the kids pictured above please contact us at:

**New Jersey Parents Caucus Inc.**  
236 South Salem Street  
Randolph, NJ 07869  
**Phone: 973-989-8866/Fax: 973-989-8867**  
[info@njparentcaucus.org](mailto:info@njparentcaucus.org)

***NJPC is collaborating with organizations throughout the state, to end the practice of trying, sentencing and incarcerating children in the adult criminal justice system:***

Our NJ Youth Justice Initiative serves parents and caregivers raising children who are incarcerated in an adult correctional facility. The most common way that youth are transferred to the adult system is through the judicial waiver. In the state of New Jersey, these are kids as young as 14 who are accused of committing any criminal offense.

***Statistics on Youth Sentenced As Adults***

- 34% more likely to commit crimes\*
- 5 times as likely to be sexually\* assaulted and abused\*
- Make up 21% of all substantiated sexual violence\*
- 36 times more likely to commit suicide in an adult jail than in a juvenile facility\*
- Typically, have had previous involvement in DYFS, Mental Health, or the Special Education System.
- Many times have emotional and/or behavioral challenges, and learning disabilities that may or may not be diagnosed
- Typically are minority youth from underserved communities

*\*In a recent report published by the CDC and led by the Task Force on Community Preventive Services*

***If your child has a Disability & is accused of Committing a Crime:***

Make all information about a child's disability available as it helps the court to choose an appropriate placement for that child.

The disability may interfere with your child's understanding of the charges brought against them; the understanding of questions from the police or an attorney; and the ability to participate in their own defense – ask to have an advocate or family member present.

The child has the right, depending on the need, to receive special services while they are incarcerated. They can include:

- IEP (Individualized Education Program) or Section 504 plan
- Help with school work
- Medication management
- Counseling
- Speech and language therapy
- Recreation services
- Occupational or physical therapy
- Training

***If your child has a Disability & is Involved in Special Education or has an IEP:***

They are entitled to services through age 21, even if they are in a juvenile or adult correctional placement. These can include:

- Educational Services & Supports
- Residential treatment settings
- Hospital programs
- Group home
- Boot Camps
- Behavioral Assistance
- Mental Health Treatment

