

***How does NJPC support parents raising youth involved in the juvenile justice system?***

NJPC offers parents, caregivers, family members with:

- Constant support
- Coalition of Parents with Children Involved with the Juvenile Justice System
- Assistance in understanding your rights and responsibilities in the juvenile justice system
- Opportunities to share information, ideas and resources
- Free legal advice from a qualified attorney
- Help in times of crisis
- Defending

***What can an NJPC advocate do for you?***

NJPC advocates accompany parents, caregivers, and family members to court appointments, probation meetings, attorney meetings, and help with transportation issues for family visits, if needed.

The New Jersey Parents 'Caucus is a non-profit organization run and served by parents and caregivers of children with serious emotional and behavioral problems. Since 1990, NJPC has worked diligently with parents, caregivers, family members, government agencies, legislators, concerned professionals, and other organizations to ensure that the needs of New Jersey families raising children with emotional and emotional problems are met. conduct. NJPC offers information and referral services, outreach, training, educational programs, advocacy and evaluation activities in Mental Health, Juvenile Justice, DCP & P, and Special Education.

***New Jersey Parents Caucus, Inc.***

***Morris County Office***  
275 Rt. 10 East, Ste 220-414  
Succasunna, NJ 07876  
Phone: 973-989-8870  
Fax: 973-695-2309  
1-888-548-NJPC (6572)

***Union County Office***  
c/o Trinitas Regional Medical Center  
655 E. Jersey St. Fl. 1  
Elizabeth, NJ 07206  
908-994-7471/ 7257/ 7619  
Fax: 908-994-7005  
1-888-548-NJPC (6572)

[www.newjerseyparentscaucus.org](http://www.newjerseyparentscaucus.org)  
[info@njparentcaucus.org](mailto:info@njparentcaucus.org)

***If your child is charged with a crime, please contact us at 908-994-7471.***

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

***New Jersey Parents Caucus***  
*Helping Parents Help Their Children*



***NJ Juvenile Justice Initiative***

*“It is important for people to know that these are just children, and young children too.”*

*NJPC is collaborating with organizations across the state to reform the practice of waiver, solitary confinement, youth transfers, and racial and ethnic disparities in New Jersey. We support parents and caregivers raising youth involved in the juvenile justice system through advocacy, support groups, and educational training so they can better understand their rights and responsibilities.*

## Racial and Ethnic Disparities

In the New Jersey adult and juvenile justice system, youth of color \* are over-represented and often receive punitive responses disproportionately compared to their white counterparts, and for the same crimes. This is a direct result of criminal policy and a combination of policy and practice in schools, police departments, and juvenile courts..

### Racial and ethnic statistics \*\*

- Of 472 young people, ages 0-17, in the Youth and Adult System
  - 71% are African-American
  - 18% are of Hispanic / Latino origin
  - 10% are Caucasian
- Of 472 young people, ages 0-17, in the Youth and Adult System
  - 15% are from Camden County
  - 12% are from Hudson County
  - 10% are from Atlantic County

### Racial & Ethnic Breakdown of Juveniles

- Of 378 committed young people
  - 70% are African-American
  - 18% are of Hispanic / Latino origin
  - 10% are Caucasian.
- Of 378 committed young people
  - 18% are from Camden County
  - 15% are from Union County
  - 10% are from Essex County

\*Defined as African American, Hispanic / Latino / Spanish, Asian, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, and Native American.

\*\* Based on data collection by the New Jersey Parents' Caucus, 2014

‡ New Jersey Juvenile Justice Commission – “Juvenile Demographics and Statistics” – July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2014

## Judicial Waivers

One of the ways that youth can be transferred to the adult system is through a court waiver. In New Jersey, children as young as 15 can be waived. The process is initiated by the prosecutor submitting a motion for dispensation to the Court. The Court determines probable cause and decides whether or not to resign.

If the accused youth is 15 years of age or older, she can make the decision to have her case waived to adult court, without the knowledge of her family or permission.

If a youth is resigned, they will be treated in the exact same way and face the same punishments as an adult, including completing their sentence in an adult prison.

### Statistics on Youth Sentenced as Adults \*\*

- 34% more likely to commit crimes
- 5 times more likely to be attacked and sexually abused
- Do 21% of all motivated sexual violence
- 36 times more likely to commit suicide in an adult prison than in a juvenile facility

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



## Youth Transfers

It is not uncommon to find that a youth incarcerated in a juvenile facility has been transferred to an adult prison without going through the waiver process, any other type of due process, or even the parents' knowledge of the event.

Once a youth in a juvenile facility reaches the age of 18, it is highly possible that they may be transferred to an adult facility based on the recommendation of a correctional officer.

### Solitary Confinement

Solitary confinement, or "The Box" or "BAU" is a form of incarceration in which an individual is isolated from any human contact.

In New Jersey, minors are locked up for up to five days as disciplinary punishment, **but they can be kept there for a long time if security is at risk.**

### Why should we not put juveniles in solitary confinement?

Young people in solitary confinement face new or aggravated mental disabilities or other serious mental health problems \*\*\*. Solitary confinement causes unimaginable stress, anxiety, and discomfort, and young people simply have fewer psychological resources than adults to deal with these conditions\*\*\*.

**“Nowhere is the damaging impact of incarceration of vulnerable children more apparent than when it comes to solitary confinement”.**

US Attorney General's National Task Force on Children Exposed to Violence

\*\*\*"Growing Up Locked Down"- ACLU, Human Rights Watch – October 2012