



Kentucky can...

Expand court discretion when determining the transfer of youth to adult court

An efficient and effective youth justice system holds kids accountable, helps them grow up to become contributing members of their community, and increases public safety. Just as a bicycle works best when it uses the right gear for the terrain, our juvenile justice system should use different responses for different situations.

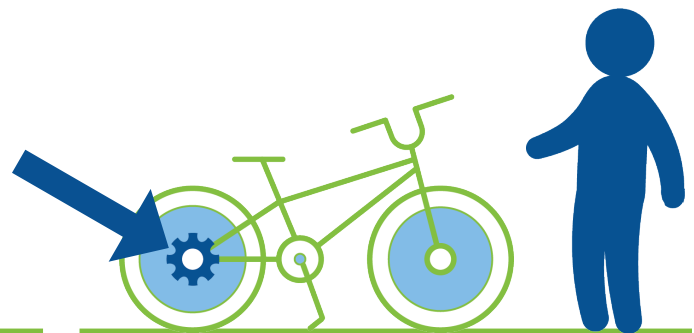
Kentucky is leading the way in youth justice system reforms in so many ways, but our state has been stuck in a single gear when it comes to the mandatory transfer of youth to adult court for certain offenses.



Using the right gear for the situation keeps Kentucky moving forward.

When judges have the discretion to decide how to handle these cases, the courts can respond more quickly and more effectively. Keeping children who get in trouble within the youth justice system when appropriate means:

- Speedier trials
- Most cost-effective and developmentally-appropriate responses
- Better access to rehabilitative supports and services



But Kentucky is stuck using a single gear.

The mandatory transfer of children to adult court for certain offenses means:

- More time in detention awaiting trial
- Judges who are not familiar with the juvenile court system
- Court records are not confidential
- Higher likelihood to commit crimes in the future

Blueprint for Kentucky's Children Solution:

Expanding court discretion by eliminating the mandatory transfer of youth age 14 and older to adult court for situations involving a firearm