



Kentucky should...

ensure that kids' basic legal rights are understood and protected when they make a mistake

Decades of science and research have shown the parts of kids' brains that regulate their self-control, decision-making, and reasoning aren't fully developed until mid-twenties.

In Kentucky, when a child makes a mistake that lands them in police custody, there is no requirement that they speak to an attorney before they waive their Miranda rights or for them to have an attorney present during an interrogation by law enforcement.

This means that kids who still need their parents' permission to go on a field trip are expected to make consequential decisions about their futures on their own.



When a child is taken into custody for an alleged offense, and prior to them waiving their Miranda rights or being subjected to a custodial interrogation, Kentucky can require law enforcement officers and court designated workers to arrange for the child to speak with an attorney

in person, over the phone, or by video conference in a confidential location. Attorneys who speak with the youth would not be required or assumed to represent them at future court hearings.

Blueprint for Kentucky's Children Policy Solution:

Require kids to speak with a juvenile attorney before they waive their Miranda rights.

Kids are more vulnerable when under stress and far more suggestible to authority figures than adults, which often manifests in **false confessions to crimes** as a way to end the stress of an interrogation without understanding the long-term consequences.

According to data from the National Registry of Exonerations, there were 118 overturned convictions that included a false confession among kids ages 11 to 17 since 1989, with offenses ranging from filing a false report to murder.

Every day, kids accept responsibility in court while being represented by attorneys who have advised them of their rights and explained the potential consequences for each decision made in the process.

By requiring kids who get in trouble to speak with an attorney before waiving their Miranda rights, we can ensure they have the support they need to make an informed decision about their future.