

Juvenile Offenders

NMCDLA believes that:

- No juvenile offender should ever be punished as an adult.
- The difference between a child and an adult must be consistently recognized in the law because scientific research has consistently demonstrated that the brains of juveniles are not fully formed and a young person's mental ability to plan or to understand the consequences of his/her actions is not fully developed.
- For many juvenile offenders, mental health issues, substance abuse problems, inadequate family support, or lack of supervision combine to lead to foolish and impulsive behavior.

NMCDLA supports:

- Tailored, comprehensive community-based responses to youth crime.
- Adequate funding for efforts to prevent juvenile crimes by providing alternatives to at-risk youth or to divert juvenile offenders who do not pose a significant risk to the safety of the community.
- The use of meaningful, culturally relevant services for juveniles accused of more serious offenses.
- Providing juveniles the same constitutional protections as adult offenders.

NMCDLA opposes:

- Disproportionate sentences such as life in prison for a child who is too young to vote or to serve in the military.

For further information:

Please contact NMCDLA member Jason Rael at (505) 369-3590
Jason.Rael@Lopdnm.us