

NCJFCJ Position Statement

Supporting the Reauthorization of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act

The National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) fully supports and reaffirms our position that the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP A) should be reauthorized. Additionally, we urge Congress to reauthorize the JJDP A with a provision that will eliminate the valid court order (VCO) exception.

The NCJFCJ, an organization devoted to ensuring justice and improving outcomes for children, families, and victims who are involved with our courts, acknowledges that research solidly indicates that detention should not be used with low-risk offenders. The VCO is used primarily for just these children. Based on our improved understanding of brain development in children, and research that reveals the negative outcomes for low-risk children who are detained with high-risk children, the NCJFCJ stands by its long held position that eliminating the VCO is in the best interest of our youth and communities. Instead, states should develop effective interventions for children who need help. A reauthorized JJDP A should assist every state in doing that work.

The NCJFCJ is nationally recognized for educating judges, court personnel, and other professionals working on behalf of our nation's children, families, and victims of domestic violence. We remain committed to advancing and reforming our nation's juvenile justice system and improving the well-being of and outcomes for young people and their families across the country.