

# END THE AUTOMATIC CHARGING OF CHILDREN AS ADULTS



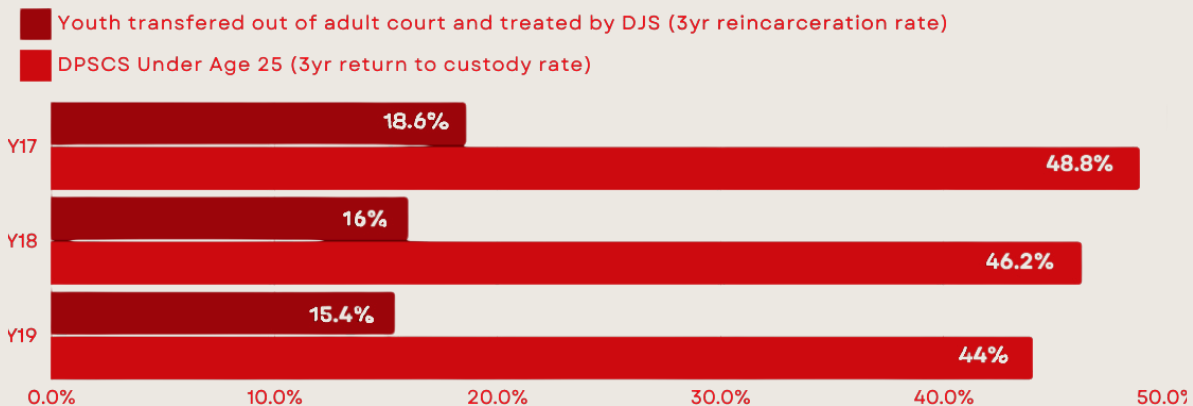
## Maryland sends more children aged 14-17 to adult court automatically than any other state except Alabama.

In 6 states—California, Hawaii, Kansas, Kentucky, Oregon, & Texas—all youth cases begin in juvenile courts.

Black children make up 31% of Maryland's population but 81% of all children charged as adults. WAMU found “Maryland judges use ‘arbitrary,’ ‘horrendous’ reasons to keep teens in adult court”

## Charging children automatically as adults is unjust, inefficient, and ineffective.

### REINCARCERATION RATES ARE HIGHER FOR CHILDREN IN THE ADULT SYSTEM



## In 2022, just 12% of teenagers tried as adults were convicted.

All 871 teens automatically charged as adults faced lengthy and expensive processes to decide if their cases would stay in adult court, with average wait times 103 days longer than those in the juvenile system. This is inefficient and results in backlogs and wasted resources of Maryland's courts, Department of Juvenile Services, public defenders, and prosecutors.

Sources: [mgaleg.maryland.gov/meeting\\_material/2023/jpr%20-%20133190439744448914%20-%20Briefing%20Materials.pdf](https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/meeting_material/2023/jpr%20-%20133190439744448914%20-%20Briefing%20Materials.pdf)  
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## CHARGED AS A JUVENILE



His trial is held in juvenile court.

The youth is detained in a **juvenile detention** facility while waiting for his trial before a Juvenile Court Judge or Magistrate.

His trial must be held within **30 days**.  
That time can be extended for good cause.

## CHARGED AS AN ADULT



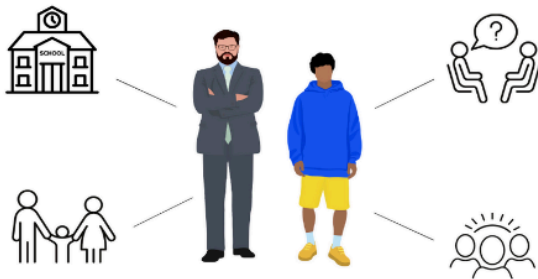
His trial is held in adult court.

The youth is detained in **adult jail or a DJS facility** while waiting for his jury trial.

His trial must be held within **180 days**.  
That time can be waived or extended for good cause.

**Everyone benefits when children accused of crimes start in the juvenile justice system, where there are services and education available for children, and a judge can determine whether they should be tried as adults.**

## SENTENCED AS A JUVENILE



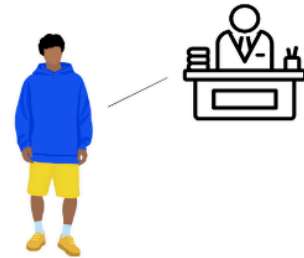
The youth is assigned a **case manager**.

His case manager is in contact with both his school and his family, **collaborating with his community to keep him on track with his accountability program**.

The case manager provides **referrals to evidence-based community programming, functional family therapy**, and other programs to provide him with **positive coping and social skills**.

### OPTION #1: PROBATION

## SENTENCED AS AN ADULT



The youth is assigned an **adult probation officer**.

Probation officers focus on the youth staying in compliance with probation terms.

Rehabilitative services and behavior modification programs are **not available** to youth on probation. He must secure his own treatment and transport himself to and from himself.

Parents cannot be ordered to help their children comply with the probation terms - **all responsibility is placed on the youth**.

Services and treatment in juvenile facilities are evidence-based and preventative. Ending automatic charging of children as adults would free up an estimated 20 million dollars for DJS to invest in community resources. Maryland must join the 26 states that have enacted laws to ensure children are treated as children and to restrict entry into adult courts.

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