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Should Underaged Children be Tried as Adult ?

Picture yourself being in a dark lonely cell without remembering the last time you felt the warmth of the sun touching your skin and the wind blowing through your hair. For years you have been locked up without your body being fully developed and not being fully educated because you have been sitting in a cell not being able to do anything other than sleep all day. Not only that but, sadly you don't have anyone to talk to, wishing that you could get out but can't because you have been tried and sentenced as an adult. This must be a hard and depressing thing to go through. Underaged children should not have to suffer through this. There should be more options than just having them go to jail and suffer.

About 50% of the children who have committed crime underaged had mentally ill problems. These kids need special treatment to help them go the right way. According to Michele Deitch, "Underaged kids need help by a therapist to be cured instead of making them go more insane in jail" ("Why Are We Trying Kids as Adults?"). What Michele said is very true because going to jail doesn't help you in any shape or form, it only makes you get worst. These kids need to really get the help they need. The judges should really think about these problems they are facing.

I'm not saying that they should be left off the hook easily but they should give the underaged children more options. Referring to what Robert Schwartz stated "the point is that youths should be punished for their crimes, but it should be done in a

developmentally appropriate way. ” (“Kids Should Never Be Tried as Adults”). The judges in juvenile courts have the power to impose curfews, house arrest, and counseling to offenders, rather than just sending them to jail. On the other hand judges in adult courts have much fewer options, and usually choose the prison one. These judges always tend to take the easy way out. This is a very dangerous problem for the juveniles to be going into an adult prison.

There are so many problems that can go wrong. “Juveniles in adult prisons are 5 times more likely to be sexually assaulted twice as likely to be beaten by staff, and 8 times as likely to commit suicide as children in juvenile facilities.”(Stamps, Reasons Why Juveniles Should Not Be Tried or Sentenced as Adults”). We are supposed to keep the kids safe not put them in danger. Kids nowadays are frightened to get AIDS because lots of kids are getting raped.

This is not the correct way to punish these young kids. A large percent of the juveniles are likely to end up becoming involved in gang or other crime activities. This is exactly why they should be getting mental help. In the book (McCord, Joan, Cathy Spatz Widom, and Nancy A. Crowell. *Juvenile Crime, Juvenile Justice*) they said that “These kids need to be properly educated in a correctly mannered way”(157)

A man named Herb Brooks quoted “should be dreaming. We grew up as kids having dreams, but now we're too sophisticated as adults, as a nation. We stopped dreaming. We should always have dreams.”(Brooks, “Juveniles Tried As Adults Quotes”). Kids that go to jail at an early age is another big problem because their dreams are getting crushed. When they are older and when they look at their records

they can not be applicable because of crimes they committed. This is such a dream crusher! I believe that these young juveniles should never give up in what they believe in and work harder to achieve their goal.