



2020 Legislative Session and Colorado Juvenile Justice Reform Highlights



CJDC Signs on In Support of SB20-076: Parole Eligibility for Youthful Offenders

The 2020 legislation session has begun. CJDC is working with our criminal justice partners to effectuate reform in the juvenile justice system. CJDC has officially signed on to support [SB20-076: Parole Eligibility of Youthful Offenders](#).

This bill would bring our parole eligibility system into accordance with current adolescent brain development research, giving young adults the opportunity to show that they deserve a second chance. It would allow the parole board or the governor to release individuals who committed their crimes when they were 18 to 24 years old if they have been model prisoners and exhibit exceptional behavior. **The bill recognizes that juveniles have the capacity for change, rehabilitation and redemption.** The bill would offer two paths for parole release:

- **Section 1** would enable individuals serving a sentence in the Department of Corrections (DOC) for a felony offense that was committed while they were 18 to 24 years of age to be eligible for parole after they serve 50% of the sentence and after they have served at least 15 calendar years in prison.

Section 2 would expand DOC's Juveniles Convicted as Adults Program (JCAP) eligibility to individuals serving a sentence for a felony that was committed when they were 18 to 24 years of age. The DOC operates JCAP, a specialized program developed in 2016, for those serving a prison sentence for a felony offense committed while the offender was a juvenile as a result of criminal charges filed by direct file or transfer proceedings. Persons would not be eligible for JCAP until they have served 20 calendar years for some offenses and 25 calendar years for others. JCAP lasts from 3 to 5 years, and upon successful completion, the offender can request early parole under the presumption that the statutory criteria for early parole have been met. This bill would expand JCAP to juveniles who committed crimes up to the age of 24.

Click here for a link to the [full bill's text](#).

CJDC Supports HB20-1238: Safe And Healthy Learning Environments For Students

CJDC supports our partners Padres & Jóvenes Unidos and [HB20-1238: Safe And Healthy Learning Environments For Students](#). HB20-1238 would require the department of education to give preference to grant applicants that articulate a strong, comprehensive approach to significantly reduce the use of school policing, school resource officers and invasive security technologies and practices, and implement evidence-based or promising practices designed to promote school safety and healthy learning environments.

Click on the link to read the [full text of the bill](#).

The Colorado Juvenile Defender Center is engaged in policy and legislative reforms to bring balance back to Colorado's juvenile justice system and improve outcomes for children, youth, and families. For more information on our policy advocacy, [visit us online](#) or reach out to CJDC's Executive Director, Kristin Ladd at Kristin@cjdc.org.

Nominate an Outstanding Colorado Juvenile Advocate



Do you know of an outstanding juvenile advocate in Colorado who has made a significant impact over the past year? Nominate them for the 2020 Juvenile Advocate of the Year awards. We are accepting nominations now for the following awards:

- **Juvenile Defender of the Year**
- **Juvenile Social Worker of the Year**
- **Juvenile Investigator of the Year**
- **Juvenile Pro-Bono Law Firm of the Year**

Awards will be presented at our [Annual Celebration and Fundraiser](#) on April 23, 2020 from 5:00-7:00 pm in Denver. **The nomination window close on March 15, so make sure to submit your nominations ASAP!**

[SUBMIT A NOMINATION](#)

8th Annual Excellence in Juvenile Defense Conference

April 23 and 24, 2020
Denver, Colorado

Our 2020 conference is going to be one for books with a comprehensive agenda boasting topics ranging from ethics, to sentencing advocacy, sex offense cases, direct file and transfer, working with experts, education advocacy and beyond. Co-sponsored by CJDC, OADC, OCR, and OSPD, the 8th Annual Excellence in Juvenile Defense Conference has a little something for everyone with four breakout tracks and two full days of CLE/CPDH!

[REGISTER HERE](#)

2020 CJDC Celebration and Fundraiser

April 23 2020 | 5:00-7:00pm
Denver, Colorado

Our 2020 Celebration and Fundraiser will be held in the Atrium of the Colorado Supreme Court from 5:00-7:00 pm on Thursday, April 23, 2020. We anticipate over 100 attendees, including attorneys, legislators, community organizations and agencies with outreach to thousands more. We invite you and your organization to sponsor our reception and join us for an evening of heavy hors d'oeuvres, libations, and award presentation for the 2020 Juvenile Defender, Social Worker, Investigator, Pro-Bono Law Firm, and Volunteer of the year.

\$30 - INDIVIDUAL EVENT TICKETS

Purchase single tickets to the event for \$30, admission includes heavy hors d'oeuvres and libations.

\$100 - YOUTH JUSTICE COUPLE SPONSORSHIP

For \$100 total, receive 2 tickets and acknowledgment in CJDC's monthly newsletter.

\$250 - YOUTH JUSTICE PARTNER SPONSORSHIP

For \$250 total, receive 4 tickets, name or logo on CJDC website and event poster, verbal acknowledgment in board remarks at event, and recognition in CJDC's monthly newsletter.

\$500 - YOUTH JUSTICE ADVOCATE SPONSORSHIP

For \$500 total, receive 6 tickets, name or logo on CJDC website and event poster, verbal acknowledgment in board remarks at event, name or logo on table display tents, and recognition (3 months) in CJDC's monthly newsletter.

\$1,000 - YOUTH JUSTICE CHAMPION SPONSORSHIP

For \$1,000 total, receive 8 tickets, name or logo on CJDC website and event poster, verbal acknowledgment in board remarks at event, table space for organizational promotions and marketing to guests, and recognition (6 months) in CJDC's monthly newsletter.

\$2,500 - OFFICIAL JUVENILE DEFENSE MANUAL SPONSOR

For \$2,500, receive 10 tickets, name/logo on website and event poster, verbal acknowledgment in remarks at event, table space for promotions/marketing to guests, recognition in monthly newsletter, and "Supported By" in the *4th Edition Colorado Juvenile Defense Manual*.

REGISTER HERE

When do Children Really Become Adults? CJDC Board Member, Apryl Alexander, Continues to Shed Light on Adolescent Brain Development



The law in Colorado currently provides that kids can be sentenced to life in prison long before they can buy a beer. This disconnect is getting national attention and local attention. CJDC Board Member, Apryl Alexander, has been studying this question of when children become adults, particularly in the area of criminal justice. She's a psychology professor at the University of Denver. She spoke with Colorado Public Radios' Andrea Dukakis on February 13, 2020. [Listen here.](#)

Colorado is starting to take notice of this issue at the state level. The Colorado Commission on Juvenile and Criminal Justice (CCJJ) has assigned mandates to the Age of Delinquency Task Force, pursuant to [House Bill 2019-1149](#). The Commission was mandated to:

- a. Compile data regarding all criminal filings in the state from the last 3 years that data is available in which a defendant is at least 18 or up to 25 years of age; and
- b. Study the established brain research for emerging adults and the data collected, study the potential impacts on the division of youth services and youthful offender system (if they also served emerging adults), and make recommendations to the general assembly regarding appropriate uses of the juvenile justice system for emerging adults.

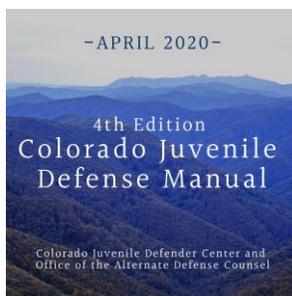
The Commission **must create a report of the collected data and recommendations by June 30, 2020** for the Judiciary Committees of the House of Representatives and Senate - so stayed tuned for that report!

CJDC Board Member, Nicholas Turco, Set to Present at the Colorado Justice Systems Forum

This week's *Colorado Justice Systems Forum* is intended to bring together those who are passionate about continuing to move Colorado forward as a national leader in public safety and criminal justice practice. Attendees will be sharing their ideas, providing feedback around the strategies they hear, and informing the path to a stronger system of accountability and support. **CJDC Board Member, Nicholas Turco, is set to present alongside other members of [Colorado's Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Council](#) on the topic of youth engagement in juvenile justice decision making and reform.** The emerging leaders will utilize the lived experience and the expertise of their members to present on these topics. Their presentation will focus on community connection and youth empowerment through working with their communities. Finally, the presentation will also focus on the concrete resources that youth need to thrive and become contributing members in juvenile justice decision making from a professional and personal standpoint.

Click on this link to learn more about the [Colorado Justice Systems Forum](#).

NEW 4th Edition Colorado Juvenile Defense Manual Coming Soon!



The *Colorado Juvenile Defense Manual* is designed to guide the practitioner through the law and the special considerations in defending a juvenile client, both in delinquency and criminal court. The manual's 1st edition was published in 2013, the 2nd edition in 2015, the 3rd edition in 2018, and we are proud to announce that the 4th edition will be published in April 2020! **The 4th edition will introduce myriad updates on case law and legislation and include two new chapters, one on gender and sexual orientation issues, the other on race and disproportionate minority contact.** *Stay tuned for more details as the April release gets closer!*

ReFUND CO Highlights an Easy Way to Support our Mission this Tax Season



If you get a Colorado state income tax refund in 2020, you will have a new opportunity to donate some or all of it to support our ongoing work in the community. The new program described by the [ReFUND CO initiative](#) puts you in charge of where your donation goes.

- I. Decide how much of your refund to donate.
- II. Enter **Colorado Juvenile Defender Center** and our registration number, **20113035527**, in the Donate to a Colorado Nonprofit Fund line on your state income tax return or tax software – or just give this info to your tax preparer when you share your tax documents.
- III. Smile knowing you've helped a cause that matters to you

With this new program, you can re-energize our important work for another year. Learn more about this program at [RefundWhatMatters.org](#).

As always, we're grateful for your past support and hope you'll consider donating again through this new program to maintain our mission.

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