



## American Humane Child Protection Position Statements

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### Prosecution of Children and Youth as Adults

American Humane believes that children and youth under the age of 18 should not be prosecuted as adults. Sentencing children and youth to life in prison without parole or administering capital punishment to them is inherently cruel and unusual punishment and is contrary to the values that inform American Humane's mission.

American Humane is opposed to capital punishment of children under the age of 18 years. American Humane supports the United States Supreme Court's 2005 decision in *Roper v. Simmons* declaring capital punishment of juveniles to be unconstitutional. Rehabilitative services should be delivered so that all citizens are protected and safe from harm. Communities should be supported with early intervention and prevention services to reduce and eliminate the onset of violent behavior.

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