

JUVENILES IN JAILS

The housing of juveniles in the nation's jails has been a problem that jail officials have tried to deal with across the years with very little success. The American Jail Association, being the primary voice for the jails of this nation, presents the following:

WHEREAS, juveniles charged with certain major crimes in most states may be legally housed in jails,

WHEREAS, juveniles certified to stand trial as an adult in most states may legally be housed in jails,

WHEREAS, according to law in most states, juveniles must be housed separately from adult inmates and this may result in costly additional expenditures for staff and training,

WHEREAS, juveniles, if housed with adult criminals, may fall victim to homosexual rape and other violence,

WHEREAS, juveniles, while they may meet the requirements to stand trial as adults, may be found innocent of the crime,

WHEREAS, juveniles housed in adult jails may use the experience to escalate their criminal standing with peers when returned to society,

WHEREAS, the care and legal requirements of housing juveniles are not a part of an adult jail facility's responsibilities, and require specially trained staff and specially designed programming which are not readily available in an adult facility,

WHEREAS, the American Jail Association is dedicated to the safe, secure and humane care and treatment of all prisoners in adult jail facilities through constitutionally managed jails;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the American Jail Association be opposed in concept to housing juveniles in any jail unless that facility is specifically designed for juvenile detention and staffed with specially trained personnel.

Adopted by the American Jail Association Board of Directors on May 22, 1990.

Revised May 19, 1993.

Re-affirmed May 3, 2008.