# Juvenile Justice: Pros and Cons on Trying Juveniles as Adults

Trying juveniles as adults has always been a controversial topic to the public. It is a strong issue to follow though considering that there are numerous arguments to put forth on both sides. Both sides will be highlighted so that there is a clear picture of the argument at hand. Though, before getting into the dispute, we need to understand certain matters. Juveniles are children who fall under the age of 18. Although in some States in the USA, the legal age varies. Yet, some juveniles are tried as adults despite their under age. Will convicting juveniles as adults, turn out to be a better solution and create a deterrent to stop crime?

The Pro side argues that a crime is a crime, no matter what the age is. Only because a child commits a crime it does not mean that the victim didn't suffer. It is believed that the juvenile court has been established with the age factor in mind rather than focusing on the crime factor. In addition to the agreement that juveniles should be tried as adults is that it will not only make them understand the consequences of their action, but also deter them from committing any further crimes and become fully aware that they are not given any special consideration because of their age factor. It is also argued by trying juveniles as adults it will lower the crime rate in society and make it a safer place to live in. When there are harsh punishments on juveniles who commit crimes, others will learn from their mistakes and will deter them from committing crimes. Another argument made by this side is that if an individual infringes upon somebody’s "Life liberty and the pursuit of happiness" then they should be tried as an adult regardless of age. In addition, it is the responsibility of society to treat all offenders equally without exemption. Furthermore, the juvenile justice system is a slap on the wrist compared to the adult justice system. Finally, it is simply harmful to assume protection for a group and say they have no responsibility. Which only leads juveniles to adopt their "irresponsible" roles in society and lose any chance of becoming responsible. Society already pampers its members with irresponsibility, and it's time to start fixing the no consequence state.

In the contrary, the Con side argues that juveniles should not be tried as adults. The juvenile courts are necessary because children cannot be tried in the same manner as adults. On most occasions, you'll find that the kids who have committed a crime are very young. It is understood and proven that at an early age, it is impossible for children to have the mental ability like that of a normal adult, to plan and execute a crime and moreover to understand the consequences of it. So all in all, it is due to this yet to develop the thought processes of an adult that demands us to treat them differently. It’s also argued that it is only after their adolescent years that a child becomes mature and begins to understand important concepts like society and expectations. During adolescence years children are still trying to deal with society, their own inner battles of peer pressure, lack of direction, impulsiveness and lack of identity. At such a time, when they have no responsibilities, and maturity it is not expected of them to understand the consequences. Therefore, it is considered unjust to convict them in the manner as adults.