



ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE ON CODES
ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
NEW YORK STATE BLACK, PUERTO RICAN, HISPANIC, AND ASIAN
LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

SUBJECT:

Examination of the Laws Governing the Age of Adult Criminal Responsibility

PURPOSE:

To examine how the laws governing the age of adult criminal responsibility affects sixteen and seventeen year olds and the criminal justice system and whether changes to the law would better serve the youth, families, public safety and the community at large.

New York City

Friday, December 6, 2013

10:00 AM

Assembly Hearing Room

250 Broadway, Room 1923, 19th Floor

New York, New York

Oral Testimony by Invitation Only

New York is one of only two states (New York and North Carolina) to mandate that all youth aged sixteen and seventeen, charged with any offense, be prosecuted and sentenced in adult criminal court. Many states have considered this issue anew in light of new evidence on child development and cognitive thinking (including North Carolina), but New York's age of adult criminal responsibility remains unchanged. While New York does have a "Youthful Offender" statute which may allow for sentence consideration and sealed records for youth in certain circumstances, there are significant and sometimes life-long consequences for a youth that may follow from arrest, adult court proceedings and a conviction or youthful offender adjudication.

This hearing will examine the age of adult criminal responsibility in New York and identify the effects of treating individuals as young as sixteen as adults in the criminal justice system. It will examine policies that could be improved to more effectively rehabilitate young offenders while also holding them accountable as delinquents. This

hearing will also examine the experiences of other states that have recently amended their laws governing the age of adult criminal responsibility and how New York may learn from those experiences.

In order to meet the needs of those who may have a disability, the Assembly, in accordance with its policy of non-discrimination on the basis of disability, as well as the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), has made its facilities and services available to all individuals with disabilities. For individuals with disabilities, accommodations will be provided, upon reasonable request, to afford such individuals access and admission to Assembly facilities and activities.

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