

OPPOSE HB 727 Juvenile Law - Custodial Interrogation - In-Person Attorney Consultation Requirement

**MARYLAND ALLIANCE FOR JUSTICE REFORM**

Working to end unnecessary incarceration and build strong, safe communities



Feb 6, 2024

To: Chair Delegate Luke Clippinger and Judiciary Committee Members  
From: Jenny Zito and Bill Carlson, MAJR Executive Committee

The Maryland Alliance for Justice Reform (MAJR) asks you to oppose HB 727 Juvenile Law - Custodial Interrogation - In-Person Attorney Consultation Requirement.

We believe that it is ill-advised to change the current law, which allows video conference and telephone consultations with an attorney as an alternative to in-person consultation with juveniles. To prolong the period a child is forced to stay in custody, due to delays in getting an in-person consultation with their attorney, is against the best interest of the child who will be under considerable stress until the episode is resolved. In addition, a requirement for in-person consultation will slow police investigations and require additional resources from the public defender's office.

The Maryland Alliance for Justice Reform (MAJR) is a nonpartisan, all-volunteer organization of nearly 2000 Marylanders who advocate for sensible evidence-based legislative and policy changes in Maryland's correctional practices. MAJR thanks you for the opportunity to provide input on this legislation and urges the committee to give HB 0727 an unfavorable report.