

SENATE BILL 744

- Sweeps into court 10, 11, and 12 year olds charged with firearm, handgun possession, and 3rd degree sex offenses.
- Prohibits diversion and out-of-court service options for auto theft charges.

HOUSE BILL 814

- Only allows one diversion for 10-12 year olds for handgun or firearm possession charges and auto theft charges.
- Drags 10-12 year olds into court for aggravated animal offenses and third degree sex offenses.

Read more about why **JJRA** **established a Minimum Age** for juvenile legal system involvement in the [linked report](#).

CHILDREN NEED SWIFT SERVICES

- Most children 10-12 are not competent for trial.
- Determining competency delays services an average of 7 months, even if the child is found competent.

ONE DIVERSION IS NOT ENOUGH

- Young children may struggle with their first diversion.
- A CINS complaint provides services without the harms of system involvement.

THIS IS A RACIAL JUSTICE ISSUE

- The REIN confirms our experience in court: Black and brown children are disproportionately swept into the system.
- Black children account for 30% of Maryland's under 13 population, but 64% of DJS intake complaint decisions for 10-13 year olds.

CHILDREN ARE NOT THE PROBLEM

- Most crime is committed by adults.
- In 2022 only 4 children aged 10-12 were charged with auto theft.
- Prevention works! (St. Paul Study).



CINS PROVIDES STRUCTURE WITHOUT THE HARMS OF DETENTION.

- CINS' therapeutic approach is more effective for addressing the root causes of behavior than detention, which focuses on punishment and incapacitation.
- CINS does not have the collateral consequences of juvenile system involvement, which negatively impacts education, future military service, and employment.
- Removing elementary school children from their homes, schools, and communities is counterproductive.
- [The Sentencing Project: Why Youth Incarceration Fails.](#)

CHILD IN NEED OF SUPERVISION (CINS) PROCESS

Step 1: CINS complaint filed with DJS

Step 2: DJS CINS Intake: screening, assessment, meeting with child and family

Step 3: DJS Intake Decision:

- Resolve/decline the complaint
- Pre-court supervision
- File a CINS petition in Juvenile Court

Step 4: If DJS files a CINS petition in court, a judge may order supervision or a residential program

Don't jump to a CINS petition. All four steps are needed.

MOPD URGES LESS HARMFUL OPTIONS -- CINS COMPLAINTS FOR 10-12 YEAR OLDS.

