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The Development of Juvenile Justice

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The Development of Juvenile Justice

Juvenile Justice plays a vital role in the United States in correcting and rehabilitating juveniles. In America, the Juvenile court system was developed more than one hundred years ago, with the initial youth court established in Illinois in 1899. Nevertheless, previously kids and juveniles were regarded as miniature grownups and were disciplined the same as adults. From 1880 social situations in America were categorized by massive immigration and a significant surge of urbanization. Consequently, this increased in children moving around the streets and participating in criminal acts. In the beginning, children sentenced because of crimes were incorporated together with the adult offenders. These lawmakers and social activists comprehended that this made the children acquire the new criminal behaviors from the adults and came out ready to be involved in serious crimes. Similarly, several cases have helped progress the juvenile justice system. This paper will discuss the importance of *Kent v. the United States*, *Eddings v. Oklahoma*, and *Thompson v. Oklahoma* cases in young justice development.

Kent v. United States case has played a critical role in the development of the Juvenile Justice System. Morris Kent was detained in Washington D.C for several charges. Although Kent was minor to the restricted jurisdiction, the interrogation took place. Kent admitted that he had contributed to several crimes such as robbery, rape, and housebreaking (re Gault & re Winship, 2017). However, Juvenile court ordered waiving the absolute jurisdiction as well as allowing suppliant be illegally persecuted. This case is vital in juvenile justice development because through more appeals that came to happen fifty-five years later, America's supreme court overturned the directive that allowed the conviction. This provided the juveniles with a hearing with the help of guidance, explanations, and admission to records. Moreover, every

youth is entitled to complete investigations before committing crimes, providing justice and fairness regardless of their age.

The Eddings v. Oklahoma case was also vital in the development of the Juvenile Justice system. Eddings was sentenced in Oklahoma law court for killing a law enforcement officer. The petitioner was punished to death and committed the crime at sixteen years. This case was critical because it gave the supreme court a chance to choose if the 8th and 14th amendments forbid the obligation of the death sentence on a lawbreaker who is young during the crime (Troutman, 2018). Therefore, the court decision was inappropriately executed because the case aligned with the juvenile justice system by allowing the state courts to listen to any extenuating situations provided by a youth offender subject to the death penalty. More alternative sentences should be used for those who have committed atrocious acts.

Moreover, the Thompson v. Oklahoma case also helped the juvenile justice system by providing fair ruling to the youth offenders. Thompson's brother-in-law was among the youths in Oklahoma with past experiences involving criminal acts and other antisocial behaviors. Therefore, in 1983 Thompson, together with the other three adults, viciously killed his brother-in-law. During the hearing process, it was ruled that Thompson could not get help from the rehabilitative procedure of the Juvenile Justice system. Consequently, all four offenders were subjected to a death sentence (Casey et al., 2021). The same source added that the Supreme court overturned Thompson's ruling claiming that individuals below sixteen years cannot be executed because it comprises cruel and unusual punishment. Also, the juvenile justice system will not be working to achieve its purpose, which is to retribute and prevent juveniles from capital crime acts.

In summation, the three cases are essential in developing the juvenile justice system because they created a foundation where the youth can be sentenced and punished differently from the adults. Similarly, considering that the juveniles are inspired by peer pressure, insufficient edification, and physiological turmoil, the 4th and 8th amendment prohibits them from being subjected to harsh and uncommon punishment.

References

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