

Our son has grown up to be a fine young man. He was a juvenile when he offended, and by law, he must register with the police every 3 months for the rest of his life. There was no violence or threat that took place in his offense. Being a juvenile and making a mistake and being an adult and making a mistake are 2 different things. When we've matured into adults we have the ability to think things through and weigh the consequences. Children often act impulsively without thinking, and make poor choices. Their mistakes are almost always resolved as they mature. Adult behavior such as empathy and compassion takes a while to develop in many children. For years they see the world as revolving around only themselves.

Our son was diagnosed as having a developmental lag. He struggled in school until we finally enrolled him in a private school with small class sizes. He had a thorough evaluation conducted by the school psychologist. Two of the criteria used to be accepted into the school was the child needed to be of average intelligence or better and had no history of behavior problems. He became a very good student, often on the honor roll. He thrived there.

Our son has grown up to be a responsible and caring young man. He's had the same full time job for about 7 years. He has never reoffended. It's been almost 15 years since his offense.

Our son is close with the family. He calls or visits his grandmothers and is a good brother to his sister and a good son to my ex-husband and me. Even though we are divorced, the 4 of us are a close family and help each other out when challenges arise. My ex-husband and I have a great relationship and talk openly about family matters. We all often celebrate holidays and birthdays together.

Please vote to remove juveniles from the Sex Offender Registry. There are other families in similar situations where juveniles have made a mistake and have matured and not repeated their mistake. This "lifetime sentence" is unreasonable and serves no purpose. The research shows the rate of reoffending for juveniles is very low. Thank you so very much for your consideration in this very important matter.

Most sincerely,

*Sheila Grinter*