



**COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
JUVENILE COURT JUDGES' COMMISSION**

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August 5, 2020

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Brandon J. Flood, Secretary  
Pennsylvania Board of Pardons  
333 Market Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17126

Dear Secretary Flood:

At the most recent meeting of the Pennsylvania Juvenile Court Judges' Commission (JCJC) held on July 22, 2020, correspondence received by our Chair, the Hon. Kim Berkeley Clark was reviewed. The correspondence, forwarded by the Allegheny County Bar Association (ACBA), cited a resolution by that organization, a 2019 Resolution of the Philadelphia Bar Association, a recommendation adopted by the Board of Governors of the Pennsylvania Bar Association and an overwhelming majority of its House of Delegates calling on the Pennsylvania Board of Pardons to refrain from requesting, investigating, or considering juvenile court records in pardon proceedings.

The arguments against the use of juvenile court records for these proceedings focus on the inherent differences between the juvenile and criminal justice systems, the otherwise predominantly confidential nature of juvenile records as per the Juvenile Act, Pennsylvania's statutory emphasis on Balanced and Restorative Justice as the focus of juvenile proceedings, and the ever-growing adolescent brain development research.

Following considerable discussion, our Commission members voted unanimously to support the request of the ACBA to join in efforts to encourage the Board of Pardons to modify processes in order to exclude the request for information related to juvenile adjudication and consent decrees in ongoing considerations of clemency.

I am hopeful that I might be able to meet with you at some time in the near future in order to discuss the concerns expressed by the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission regarding this matter in more detail.

Please feel free to contact me at [ricsteele@pa.gov](mailto:ricsteele@pa.gov) at your earliest convenience so that we might schedule a mutually convenient time to discuss this matter in more detail.

I greatly appreciate your attention to this issue and look forward to the opportunity to meet in the near future.

Sincerely,



Richard D. Steele  
Executive Director

Cc: Hon. Kim Berkeley Clark, Chair  
Hon. Carol L. Van Horn, Vice Chair  
Hon. David R. Workman, Secretary  
Hon. J. Brain Johnson  
Hon. Joy Reynolds McCoy  
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