

JUVENILE JUSTICE OVERSIGHT COUNCIL

Minutes

November 7, 2025

Call to Order and Roll Call

The third meeting of the Juvenile Justice Oversight Council was held on November 7, 2025, at 1:00 PM in Room 149 of the Capitol Annex. Representative Daniel Elliott, Chair, called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

Present were:

Members: Representative Daniel Elliott, Co-Chair; Senator Brandon J. Storm, Co-Chair; Senator Danny Carroll; Representatives Lisa Willner and Nick Wilson; and Lesa Dennis, Christina Weeter for Robbie Fletcher, Randy White for Keith Jackson, Beth Jordan for Dr. Katie Marks, Damon Preston, Randy White, Derek Selznick for Paula Garner, Steven Gold, Jason Reynolds for Zach Ramsey, and Tyra Walker.

Guests: Jason Darnall, County Attorney, Marshall County; Jennie Haymond, County Attorney, Madison County; Laura Karem, Juvenile Post-Disposition Branch Supervisor, Department of Public Advocacy (DPA); Lindsey Yates, Cynthiana Trial Office Supervisor, DPA; Shannon Moody, PhD, MSSW, CSW, Chief Policy & Strategy Officer, Kentucky Youth Advocates (KYA); and Cortney Downs, MSSW, CSW, Chief Innovation Officer, KYA.

LRC Staff: Roberta Kiser, Stephanie Larkin, Matissa Robinson, Eric Rodenberg, and Robert Wright.

Approval of Minutes of the October 8, 2025, Meeting

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the October 8, 2025, meeting. Minutes were approved by voice vote without objection.

Agency Updates

Chair Elliott reviewed a report provided by the AOC regarding enhancing youth accountability and support through case plans; Family Accountability, Intervention, and Response (FAIR) Teams outcomes and mandated member attendance; and trends in juvenile complaint filings.

Juvenile Interrogation

Jason Darnall, County Attorney, Marshall County; Jennie Haymond, County Attorney, Madison County; Laura Karem, Juvenile Post-Disposition Branch Supervisor, DPA; Lindsey Yates, Cynthiana Trial Office Supervisor, DPA; Shannon Moody, PhD, MSSW, CSW, Chief

Committee meeting materials may be accessed online at <https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/CommitteeDocuments/373>

Policy & Strategy Officer, KYA; and Cortney Downs, MSSW, CSW, Chief Innovation Officer, KYA, discussed juvenile interrogation.

Ms. Downs presented on juvenile interrogation and best practices; outlined KYA's mission; emphasized KYA's priority on requiring children to consult with an attorney before waiving their Miranda rights; detailed what a child's consultation with an attorney prior to waiving Miranda rights would encompass; emphasized why children need early access to attorneys, citing a lack of understanding by juveniles related to their legal rights and the legal process; cited statistics related to juvenile defendants who were exonerated due to a false confession; reviewed legislation from other states related to juvenile interrogation practices; and provided recommendations, stressing KYA's priority for children to be required to consult an attorney before waiving their legally protected rights.

In response to Ms. Walker, Ms. Downs agreed to provide KYA data related to services provided to children who have experienced traumatic events.

In response to Senator Carroll, Ms. Downs confirmed KYA's intention to require a child to consult an attorney before speaking to police; and emphasized that this consultation may only be required for interviews in relation to specific crimes.

In response to Mr. Gold, Ms. Downs agreed to provide information related to approaches to juvenile interrogation practices in other states; and emphasized KYA's intention with this proposed requirement is that children are aware of their legal rights during interrogation.

In response to Mr. Preston, Ms. Downs agreed to provide legislation from other states related to juvenile interrogation practices.

Mr. Darnall and Ms. Haymond discussed their relevant experiences related to juvenile interrogation.

In response to Mr. Preston, Ms. Haymond discussed law enforcement training related to the differences between conducting juvenile interrogation and adult interrogation. Mr. Darnall stated school resource officers do receive training, but he was unaware of the curriculum.

In response to Co-Chair Storm, Ms. Haymond discussed offenses that would result in a juvenile being detained; discussed procedures related to recording juvenile interrogations in Madison County; and outlined the process when a juvenile's custodian cannot be reached.

In response to Senator Carroll, Mr. Darnall discussed litigation surrounding the 2018 school shooting at Marshall County High School.

In response to Ms. Walker, Mr. Darnall discussed the admissibility of an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) at a hearing to determine the nature of a juvenile's confession.

In response to Chair Elliot, Mr. Darnall stated he has not spoken with prosecutors in states where legislation does not allow law enforcement to use deceptive tactics to secure a confession from a juvenile.

Ms. Karem and Ms. Yates discussed their relevant experiences related to juvenile interrogation.

In response to Co-Chair Storm, Ms. Yates discussed the feasibility of a DPA staffed 24-hour legal hotline for juveniles requiring legal opinions.

In response to Mr. Gold, Ms. Yates discussed how public officials could stem the influx of weapons being given to children who then commit criminal acts.

In response to Senator Carroll, Ms. Yates discussed how her obligation to juvenile clients can change.

In response to Chair Elliott, Ms. Karem and Ms. Yates discussed how widespread the issue of false confessions in custodial interrogations by juveniles is and how often statements made by juveniles are thrown out in Kentucky.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:34 PM.