

APA Official Actions

Position Statement on Lengthy Sentences Without Parole for Juveniles

Approved by the Board of Trustees, December 2017

Approved by the Assembly, November 2017

“Policy documents are approved by the APA Assembly and Board of Trustees. . . These are . . . position statements that define APA official policy on specific subjects. . .” – *APA Operations Manual*

POSITION:

The APA affirms the undesirability of long-term sentences without possibility of parole for offenders who were younger than 18 at the time of the offense. Such sentences fail to take into account the developmental immaturity, reduced culpability, and prospects for rehabilitation in many youthful offenders, even those convicted of serious offenses.

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