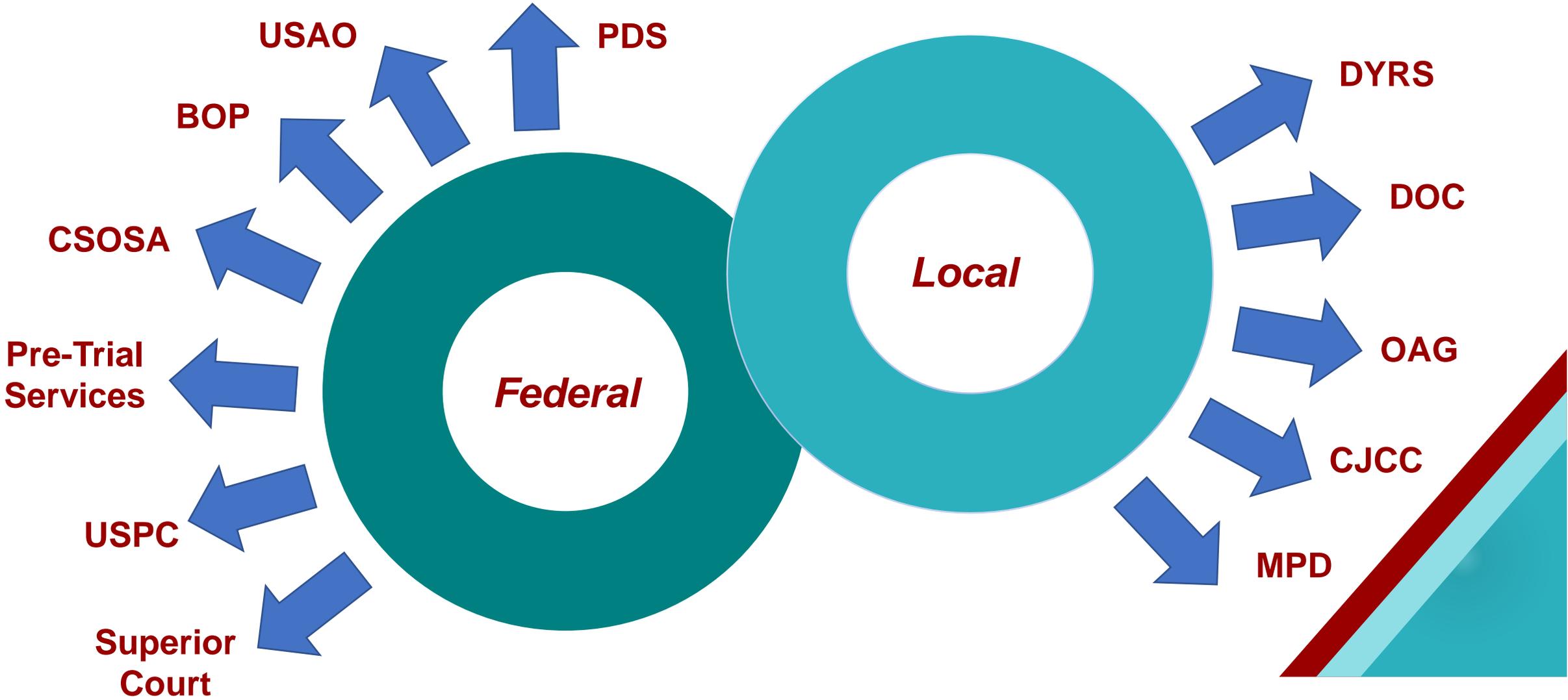


Innovative Policy, Legislation, and Research for Juvenile and Young Adult Offenders in the District of Columbia

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The District of Columbia's Juvenile and Criminal Justice System Actors



Recent Legislative Reforms for Juveniles and Young Adults



Comprehensive Youth Justice Amendment Act of 2016



- Strengthens the presumption against pre-disposition detention of children
- Bans the secure detention of “status offenders” and ends their commitment on their 18th birthday
- Transfers “Title 16” youth (tried as adults) from the Department of Corrections’ custody to the Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services (DYRS)
- Prohibits DYRS commitment of youth before age 10
- Limits the use of room confinement of juveniles and bans the use of disciplinary segregation
- Establishes a restorative justice program at the Office of the Attorney General
- Requires the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council to analyze the root causes of juvenile delinquency
- Eliminates mandatory minimums for juveniles charged as adults
- Bans the use of juvenile life without parole sentences
- Creates a process for individuals who committed offenses before age 18 and who have served 20+ years to petition the Superior Court to have their sentences reviewed (known as the “Incarceration Reduction Amendment Act”, or “IRAA”)



Recent Legislative Reforms for Juveniles and Young Adults



Youth Rehabilitation Amendment Act of 2018



- Under the District's Youth Rehabilitation Amendment Act of 2018, or the "YRA", young adults under age 25 convicted of, and sentenced for, most crimes are eligible to have their convictions "set aside", or sealed, if they successfully complete their sentence. They are also eligible for more age-appropriate sentencing options, and judges can depart from mandatory minimums.
- Certain offenses are ineligible for YRA sentencing and the set aside:
 - Murder, first degree murder that constitutes an act of terrorism, second-degree murder that constitutes an act of terrorism, first degree sexual abuse, second degree sexual abuse, and first degree child sexual abuse
- After the Council's reforms, the YRA now:
 - Incentivizes and rewards rehabilitation by moving the decision to set aside a conviction until after sentence completion
 - Gives judges specific factors to weigh as guideposts when considering a young adult for YRA sentencing or later having their conviction set aside
 - Modernizes eligibility based on the age of the young adult when the offense was committed, and aligns the age of eligibility with District programs that serve young adults
 - Enhances transparency for victims and convicted young adults by requiring judges to provide written statements explaining their sentencing and set aside decisions
 - Provides grants to help victims of crime and convicted young adults understand and navigate sentencing
 - Builds in regular data collection and analysis by District agencies



Recent Legislative Reforms for Juveniles and Young Adults

Second Look Amendment Act of 2019

- Expands the Incarceration Reduction Amendment Act to allow individuals who committed crimes *under age 25* and who have served at least 15 years to apply to the Superior Court for sentence review
- Approximately 20 men have been resentenced to time served, and 2 have been denied, under the IRAA -> under the Second Look Amendment Act, an estimated 570 individuals would be eligible to apply for sentence review
- The bill follows models in other jurisdictions, uniform laws, and legislation pending in Congress

