

Chapter 1 : News - National Public Radio-Do Juvenile Killers Deserve Life Behind Bars? (PbS)

Mar 20, Â· Do Juvenile Killers Deserve Life Behind Bars? The U.S. Supreme Court hears arguments Tuesday in two homicide cases testing whether it is unconstitutionally cruel and unusual punishment to sentence.

It was moving across that fuzzy line where, heaven forbid, he committed a crime, and he would be tried as an adult. I want to be really, really clear. My son is an amazing young man who just graduated from college. He is considerate, kind, intelligent, hard-working. He also is white, middle-class, with a supportive family and lots of opportunities. He has never committed a crime, though he did get a ticket when he was 16 for letting a friend hop in the back of his truck to drive a block toward his house. It is dangerous to have passengers in the back of a pickup truck—no matter that he was going no more than 10 miles per hour. I make no excuses for his dumb behavior, and neither does he. I will say that he has been riding in the back of pickup trucks in fields since he was a young kid, helping haul hay, and teenagers are not very good at considering the context when making decisions. So, this morning, when I listened to an NPR story about juveniles who have received life sentences without the possibility of parole, I thought about my son in high school, when he talked about crossing into the realm of adult responsibility. As a 16 year old, I had watched my 24 year-old brother fall into the earth-shattering process of being arrested and tried for the brutal murder of his ex-girlfriend. From experience, I know that mistakes can be made: And this uncertainty is also part of my understanding of our justice system. Mistakes can be made, in commission and in prosecution, but consequences are enduring. Long before you can buy alcohol, vote or drive, you can be held accountable, for the rest of your life, for an action you take. Just since , the US has reluctantly in some cases relinquished its option to execute prisoners for crimes committed when they were children. In Kansas and Vermont, that age is In many states, no minimum is set. Today, the US Supreme Court will hear arguments about whether or not it is unconstitutional, under the cruel and unusual punishment prohibition, to sentence year-olds to life without the possibility of parole. Click the image below to follow the story from National Public Radio on the Supreme Court challenge on this issue. Maddie also spotted the NPR story and suggested it for the post. If you are interested, you might want to check out this video on juvenile education.

Chapter 2 : NPR Choice page

The Secret Life of Bees; A Streetcar Named Desire; Library Do Juvenile Killers Deserve Life Behind Bars? About; Blog; Careers; Contact; Donate; FAQ; Partners; Press;

Supreme Court hears arguments Tuesday in two homicide cases testing whether it is unconstitutionally cruel and unusual punishment to sentence a year-old to life in prison without the possibility of parole. There are currently 79 of these juvenile killers who will die in prison. In cases dealing with punishment for juveniles, context is everything. In , the Supreme Court struck down the death penalty for juveniles, declaring that kids are different from adults. The court said that because of their youth, their brains are literally less developed, they are more impulsive, more subject to peer pressure and less able to see the consequences of their acts. Two years ago, the court used the same rationale when it struck down the penalty of life without parole for nonhomicide crimes committed by juveniles. A case from Arkansas involves a teenager who was not the triggerman. Fourteen-year-old Kuntrell Jackson and two other kids held up a video rental store. One of the other boys pointed a sawed-off shotgun at the cashier, and when she threatened to call the police, shot and killed her. He was tried as an adult for aggravated murder and, under state law, received a mandatory sentence of life without parole. The other case, from Alabama, involves Evan Miller, a boy so brutalized as a child that by the time he was arrested for murder at age 14, he had tried to kill himself six times, the first time when he was 5 years old. The neighbor, year-old Cole Cannon, gave the boys liquor and marijuana. Miller consumed a fifth of whiskey as the boys engaged in drinking games with Cannon and planned to steal his wallet. One of the most famous of those who have changed their lives is award-winning actor-producer Charles Dutton. By the age of 12, he quit school and lived a life of fights and crime on the streets of Baltimore. Cannon died of smoke inhalation. The year-old friend made a deal with prosecutors in exchange for his testimony, and got life with parole eligibility. Fourteen-year-old Miller got life without parole. Evan Miller in the white shirt was sentenced to life in prison for a crime he committed when he was . Courtesy of Equal Justice Initiative Bryan Stevenson, the lawyer who represents the boys in both of these cases, will make two basic arguments before the Supreme Court. No one can consider it," says Stevenson. But the big question before the Supreme Court on Tuesday is whether life without the possibility of parole is itself an unconstitutionally cruel and unusual punishment when it is applied to juveniles. Defense lawyer Stevenson notes that the American legal system treats minors as both less culpable and less responsible. Fourteen-year-olds, for instance, are not allowed to drink, to marry, to vote, to serve on juries or even to drive. Among them is year-old Scott Filippi, who shot his mother but after his release joined the Army and became a member of the Presidential Honor Guard. By age 12, he had quit school and was living a life of fights and crime on the streets of Baltimore. I enjoyed the challenge of battle. Even in prison, though, he continued his fighting ways, assaulting a guard and getting eight years added to his sentence. A decade or so later, he was on his way to "the hole" for solitary confinement when he picked up a book of plays sent to him by a girlfriend. It ended up changing his life. As he puts it, he found what he was "born to do. Part of the justification for that, he observes, is the notion of retribution. Defense lawyer Stevenson counters that in reality, only 18 states have imposed life without parole on a year-old, and only 79 killers who are 14 or younger are currently serving life-without-parole sentences. One of the other boys shot and killed the cashier. Courtesy of Equal Justice Initiative Finally, the states argue that life without parole is a sufficiently severe sentence that it will deter at least some juveniles from committing murder. Award-winning actor-producer Charles Dutton is example of juvenile offenders who have later changed their lives. AP Defense lawyer Stevenson dismisses that argument, echoing the sentiments of many experts who deal with violent juveniles. To see more, visit [http:](http://)

Chapter 3 : Do Juvenile Killers Deserve Life Behind Bars? | WFSU

In cases dealing with punishment for juveniles, context is everything. The U.S. Supreme Court hears arguments Tuesday in two homicide cases testing whether it is unconstitutionally cruel and unusual punishment to sentence a year-old to life in prison without the possibility of parole.

Download this story 3. Supreme Court hears arguments Tuesday in two homicide cases testing whether it is unconstitutionally cruel and unusual punishment to sentence a year-old to life in prison without the possibility of parole. There are currently 79 of these juvenile killers who will die in prison. In cases dealing with punishment for juveniles, context is everything. In , the Supreme Court struck down the death penalty for juveniles, declaring that kids are different from adults. The court said that because of their youth, their brains are literally less developed, they are more impulsive, more subject to peer pressure and less able to see the consequences of their acts. Two years ago, the court used the same rationale when it struck down the penalty of life without parole for nonhomicide crimes committed by juveniles. A case from Arkansas involves a teenager who was not the triggerman. Fourteen-year-old Kuntrell Jackson and two other kids held up a video rental store. One of the other boys pointed a sawed-off shotgun at the cashier, and when she threatened to call the police, shot and killed her. He was tried as an adult for aggravated murder and, under state law, received a mandatory sentence of life without parole. The other case, from Alabama, involves Evan Miller, a boy so brutalized as a child that by the time he was arrested for murder at age 14, he had tried to kill himself six times, the first time when he was 5 years old. The neighbor, year-old Cole Cannon, gave the boys liquor and marijuana. Miller consumed a fifth of whiskey as the boys engaged in drinking games with Cannon and planned to steal his wallet. Cannon died of smoke inhalation. The year-old friend made a deal with prosecutors in exchange for his testimony, and got life with parole eligibility. Fourteen-year-old Miller got life without parole. Bryan Stevenson, the lawyer who represents the boys in both of these cases, will make two basic arguments before the Supreme Court. No one can consider it," says Stevenson. But the big question before the Supreme Court on Tuesday is whether life without the possibility of parole is itself an unconstitutionally cruel and unusual punishment when it is applied to juveniles. Defense lawyer Stevenson notes that the American legal system treats minors as both less culpable and less responsible. Fourteen-year-olds, for instance, are not allowed to drink, to marry, to vote, to serve on juries or even to drive. Among them is year-old Scott Filippi, who shot his mother but after his release joined the Army and became a member of the Presidential Honor Guard. One of the most famous of those who have changed their lives is award-winning actor-producer Charles Dutton. By age 12, he had quit school and was living a life of fights and crime on the streets of Baltimore. I enjoyed the challenge of battle. Even in prison, though, he continued his fighting ways, assaulting a guard and getting eight years added to his sentence. A decade or so later, he was on his way to "the hole" for solitary confinement when he picked up a book of plays sent to him by a girlfriend. It ended up changing his life. As he puts it, he found what he was "born to do. Part of the justification for that, he observes, is the notion of retribution. Defense lawyer Stevenson counters that in reality, only 18 states have imposed life without parole on a year-old, and only 79 killers who are 14 or younger are currently serving life-without-parole sentences. Defense lawyer Stevenson dismisses that argument, echoing the sentiments of many experts who deal with violent juveniles. To see more, visit [http:](http://) The best SoCal news in your inbox, daily.

Chapter 4 : Do Teenage Killers Deserve Life Behind Bars?

Name: Class: "Humility"by Ben is licensed under CC BY-SA Do Juvenile Killers Deserve Life Behind Bars? By Nina Totenberg The American juvenile justice system is distinct from the system that deals with defendants and criminals.

Reply Tue 20 Mar, Supreme Court hears arguments Tuesday in two homicide cases testing whether it is unconstitutionally cruel and unusual punishment to sentence a year-old to life in prison without the possibility of parole. There are currently 79 of these juvenile killers who will die in prison. In cases dealing with punishment for juveniles, context is everything. In , the Supreme Court struck down the death penalty for juveniles, declaring that kids are different from adults. The court said that because of their youth, their brains are literally less developed, they are more impulsive, more subject to peer pressure and less able to see the consequences of their acts. Two years ago, the court used the same rationale when it struck down the penalty of life without parole for nonhomicide crimes committed by juveniles. A case from Arkansas involves a teenager who was not the triggerman. Fourteen-year-old Kuntrell Jackson and two other kids held up a video rental store. One of the other boys pointed a sawed-off shotgun at the cashier, and when she threatened to call the police, shot and killed her. He was tried as an adult for aggravated murder and, under state law, received a mandatory sentence of life without parole. The other case, from Alabama, involves Evan Miller, a boy so brutalized as a child that by the time he was arrested for murder at age 14, he had tried to kill himself six times, the first time when he was 5 years old. The neighbor, year-old Cole Cannon, gave the boys liquor and marijuana. Miller consumed a fifth of whiskey as the boys engaged in drinking games with Cannon and planned to steal his wallet. Cannon died of smoke inhalation. The year-old friend made a deal with prosecutors in exchange for his testimony, and got life with parole eligibility. Fourteen-year-old Miller got life without parole. Bryan Stevenson, the lawyer who represents the boys in both of these cases, will make two basic arguments before the Supreme Court. Kuntrell Jackson, 14, and two other kids held up a video rental store. One of the other boys shot and killed the cashier. No one can consider it," says Stevenson. But the big question before the Supreme Court on Tuesday is whether life without the possibility of parole is itself an unconstitutionally cruel and unusual punishment when it is applied to juveniles. Defense lawyer Stevenson notes that the American legal system treats minors as both less culpable and less responsible. Fourteen-year-olds, for instance, are not allowed to drink, to marry, to vote, to serve on juries or even to drive. Among them is year-old Scott Filippi, who shot his mother but after his release joined the Army and became a member of the Presidential Honor Guard. One of the most famous of those who have changed their lives is award-winning actor-producer Charles Dutton. By age 12, he had quit school and was living a life of fights and crime on the streets of Baltimore. I enjoyed the challenge of battle. By age 17, he was sentenced to prison for manslaughter. Even in prison, though, he continued his fighting ways, assaulting a guard and getting eight years added to his sentence. A decade or so later, he was on his way to "the hole" for solitary confinement when he picked up a book of plays sent to him by a girlfriend. It ended up changing his life. As he puts it, he found what he was "born to do. Part of the justification for that, he observes, is the notion of retribution. Raphael Johnson shot and killed a classmate when he was Defense lawyer Stevenson counters that in reality, only 18 states have imposed life without parole on a year-old, and only 79 killers who are 14 or younger are currently serving life-without-parole sentences. Defense lawyer Stevenson dismisses that argument, echoing the sentiments of many experts who deal with violent juveniles.

Chapter 5 : Do Juvenile Killers Deserve Life Behind Bars? |

US & World Do juvenile killers deserve life behind bars? Kuntrell Jackson, 14, and two other kids held up a video rental store. One of the other boys shot and killed the cashier.

Supreme Court hears arguments Tuesday in two homicide cases testing whether it is unconstitutionally cruel and unusual punishment to sentence a year-old to life in prison without the possibility of parole. There are currently 79 of these juvenile killers who will die in prison. In cases dealing with punishment for juveniles, context is everything. In , the Supreme Court struck down the death penalty for juveniles, declaring that kids are different from adults. The court said that because of their youth, their brains are literally less developed, they are more impulsive, more subject to peer pressure and less able to see the consequences of their acts. Two years ago, the court used the same rationale when it struck down the penalty of life without parole for nonhomicide crimes committed by juveniles. A case from Arkansas involves a teenager who was not the triggerman. Fourteen-year-old Kuntrell Jackson and two other kids held up a video rental store. One of the other boys pointed a sawed-off shotgun at the cashier, and when she threatened to call the police, shot and killed her. He was tried as an adult for aggravated murder and, under state law, received a mandatory sentence of life without parole. The other case, from Alabama, involves Evan Miller, a boy so brutalized as a child that by the time he was arrested for murder at age 14, he had tried to kill himself six times, the first time when he was 5 years old. The neighbor, year-old Cole Cannon, gave the boys liquor and marijuana. Miller consumed a fifth of whiskey as the boys engaged in drinking games with Cannon and planned to steal his wallet. Cannon died of smoke inhalation. The year-old friend made a deal with prosecutors in exchange for his testimony, and got life with parole eligibility. Fourteen-year-old Miller got life without parole. Bryan Stevenson, the lawyer who represents the boys in both of these cases, will make two basic arguments before the Supreme Court. No one can consider it," says Stevenson. But the big question before the Supreme Court on Tuesday is whether life without the possibility of parole is itself an unconstitutionally cruel and unusual punishment when it is applied to juveniles. Defense lawyer Stevenson notes that the American legal system treats minors as both less culpable and less responsible. Fourteen-year-olds, for instance, are not allowed to drink, to marry, to vote, to serve on juries or even to drive. Among them is year-old Scott Filippi, who shot his mother but after his release joined the Army and became a member of the Presidential Honor Guard. One of the most famous of those who have changed their lives is award-winning actor-producer Charles Dutton. By age 12, he had quit school and was living a life of fights and crime on the streets of Baltimore. I enjoyed the challenge of battle. Even in prison, though, he continued his fighting ways, assaulting a guard and getting eight years added to his sentence. A decade or so later, he was on his way to "the hole" for solitary confinement when he picked up a book of plays sent to him by a girlfriend. It ended up changing his life. As he puts it, he found what he was "born to do. Part of the justification for that, he observes, is the notion of retribution. Defense lawyer Stevenson counters that in reality, only 18 states have imposed life without parole on a year-old, and only 79 killers who are 14 or younger are currently serving life-without-parole sentences. Defense lawyer Stevenson dismisses that argument, echoing the sentiments of many experts who deal with violent juveniles. To see more, visit [http:](http://) Supreme Court hears arguments today in two homicide cases. They test whether sentencing a year-old to life in prison, without the possibility of parole, is cruel and unusual punishment. There are currently 79 such killers, convicted as juveniles, who will die in prison. In , the Supreme Court struck down the death penalty for juveniles, declaring that kids are different than adults. Because of their youth, their brains are literally, less developed. The court used the same rationale two years ago, when it struck down the penalty of life without parole for non-homicide crimes committed by juveniles. But today, the court faces the question of life without parole in homicide cases. One of the other boys pointed a sawed-off shotgun at the cashier and when she threatened to call the police, shot and killed her. He was tried as an adult for aggravated murder and under state law, received a mandatory sentence of life without parole. The other case, from Alabama, involves a boy so brutalized as a child that by the time he was arrested for murder at age 14, he had six times tried to kill himself - the first time, when he was 5 years old. Evan consumed a fifth of whiskey, as the boys engaged

in drinking games with Cannon and planned to steal his wallet. Eventually a fight broke out. The year-old made a deal with prosecutors in exchange for his testimony, and got life with parole eligibility. Fourteen-year-old Evan Miller got life without parole. Lawyer Bryan Stevenson represents both boys, and today will make two basic arguments before the Supreme Court. No one can consider it. Alabama Solicitor General John Neiman: If the defendant is not going to get the death penalty, then in the very least, the defendant ought to get a life-without-parole sentence, largely to counter-balance the harm the defendant does when he or she commits one of these aggravated murders. Fourteen-year-olds, for instance, are not allowed to drink, to marry, to vote, to serve on juries, or even to drive. They may end up even spending the rest of their lives in prison. Indeed, a brief filed by the Council of Juvenile Correctional Administrators and other juvenile crime experts points to many amazing cases of rehabilitation. Among them is a year-old who shot his mother and after his release, joined the Army and became a member of the Presidential Honor Guard. Or there is the year-old New York gang member who eventually became the editor-in-chief of the Columbia Law Review. By the age of 12, he quit school and lived a life of fights and crime on the streets of Baltimore. I liked getting in trouble. And I enjoyed getting in fights. By the age of 17, he was sentenced to prison for manslaughter. A decade or so later, he was on his way to the hole when he picked up a book of plays sent to him by a girlfriend. As he puts it, he found what he was born to do. Dutton says he understands the desire to avenge a terrible crime but The states that have adopted life without parole for juvenile killers have a very different view. There have to be circumstances under which those persons can serve life without parole. Indeed, Alabama Solicitor General Neiman notes that 38 of the 50 states authorize life without parole for year-olds convicted of murder, and the federal government authorizes it for year-olds. Defense lawyer Stevenson counters that in reality, only 18 states have imposed life without parole on a year-old, And only 79 who were 14 at the time of their crime are currently serving life without parole. Finally, the states argue that life without parole is a sufficiently severe sentence that it will deter at least some juveniles from committing murder. Most of my clients had never heard of life imprisonment without parole, and had no capacity to appreciate what it would mean.

Chapter 6 : Do juvenile killers deserve life behind bars? | KPCC

The U.S. Supreme Court hears arguments Tuesday in two homicide cases testing whether it is unconstitutionally cruel and unusual punishment to sentence a year-old to life in prison without the.

Chapter 7 : Do Juvenile Killers Deserve Life Behind Bars?

The states that have adopted life without parole for juvenile killers have a very different view. "The one thing that we don't know is what the potential of the life would be that was snuffed out in the crime," says Arkansas Attorney General Dustin McDaniel.

Chapter 8 : Do Juvenile Killers Deserve Life Behind Bars? | KALW

But, do teenage murderers deserve a second chance? According to the Supreme Court, yes. Back in , the Supreme Court ruled adolescents should "rarely" be given mandatory life sentences, and specifically, only when psychological evidence shows the juvenile is "irreparably corrupt."

Chapter 9 : Do Juvenile Killers Deserve Life Behind Bars? : NPR - US History

Do Juvenile Killers Deserve Life Behind Bars?: NPR the audience is global and the views expressed here do not necessarily represent those of NTHS as an.