



MISSOURI JUVENILE JUSTICE ASSOCIATION

Promoting justice for children, youth and families

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July 1, 2021

Re: RAISING THE AGE OF JUVENILE COURT JURISDICTION BECOMES EFFECTIVE

On June 1, 2018, Governor Greitens signed into law Senate Bill 793, which raised the age of juvenile court jurisdiction from 17 to 18 years of age for delinquent offenses. In addition, SB 793 repealed a provision of current law which gave the juvenile court jurisdiction over 17-year-old status offenders, subject to appropriations. The expansion of juvenile court jurisdiction was to become effective January 1, 2021, however, SB 793 also made this expansion contingent upon “an appropriation sufficient to fund the expanded service” (211.438, RSMo). The FY ‘21 budget did not include appropriations for raising the age of juvenile court jurisdiction and, as a result, implementation of SB 793 was delayed.

On June 30, 2021, Governor Parson signed HB 11 and HB 12; these are the FY ‘22 appropriation bills that become effective July 1, 2021; these bills include funding for the Division of Youth Services and juvenile courts to implement raising the age of juvenile court jurisdiction.

Since funding has been appropriated, the contingency clause in 211.438, RSMo is satisfied, and makes raising the age of juvenile court jurisdiction effective July 1, 2021.

In summary, the juvenile court now has jurisdiction over youth age 17 or younger who are alleged to have committed a status or delinquency offense ON OR AFTER July 1, 2021.

For questions, contact Marcia Hazelhorst, MJJA Executive Director, at 573.616.1058 or by email at marcia@mjja.org.

Respectfully,

Marcia Hazelhorst
Executive Director

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