
PA Supreme Court Denies Petition for Juvenile Placement Reviews

On April 1, 2020, the Juvenile Law Center of Philadelphia filed a King's Bench Petition with the Pennsylvania Supreme Court. The petition argued that the Court should exercise its extraordinary relief powers to immediately order trial court judges across the Commonwealth to review the cases of every youth currently in custody in juvenile detention centers, county jails, or longer term correctional or residential placements and to provide for the immediate release of medically vulnerable youth, as well as several other categories of youth, who pose no immediate or articulable risk of harm to others.

Today, the PA Supreme Court denied the King's Bench petition filed last week requesting review of all juveniles in residential placement considering the COVID-19 pandemic. The order directs President Judges, or their designees, to engage with all relevant county stakeholders to review immediately the current capabilities of residential placements within their counties, where judges have placed juveniles to address the spread of COVID-19. Of interest, the Court's order directed President Judges to assure that they engage with stakeholders to review the current capabilities of residential placement to address the spread of COVID-19.

The order will require county courts and departments to engage with your agencies regarding your capabilities to address the presence or spread of COVID-19. I know you have been developing these protocols and operational response plans as it relates to your efforts. At this time, RCPA does not recommend posting these plans on your website, but rather be prepared to provide this information to multiple sources. If operationally feasible, selecting a point person to coordinate the communication may be an option.

An invitation for a conference call for our Residential Service Providers Ad Hoc Group will be sent shortly. The call will be Thursday, April 9 at 2 pm. This, along with other critical issues and updates, will be discussed.

If you have any questions or feedback, please contact RCPA Children's Director [Jim Sharp](#). The PA Supreme Court decision can be found [here](#).