

- One Juvenile Case is resolved
- One attorney involved in 3 high profile cases
- Internet Support grows stronger
- Web Sites



Aaron Paparella receives plea that is acceptable to all

One District Attorney sees the light and agrees to a plea bargain aimed at helping one youth

Aaron Paparella, now 17, was all of 14 when arrested and charged with 4 counts of rape of minor females. The case received national attention when it was learned that Aaron was 100% deaf and could only communicate by sign language. When arrested, he was taken from his special school in St. Augustine, Florida and transported to Santa Rosa County Jail where he was held without the knowledge of his father for two days. During the next nine days, he was abused and mistreated because the jailers could not communicate with him and considered him a trouble maker. He was kept in a isolation cell, clothes removed and at some points, was even beaten. For two years, the legal battle over what should become of Aaron has played out until Prosecutor Sherling of Santa Rosa County decided it would be in the best interest of this child to reach a plea that all could be satisfied with. In the end, Aaron will be on probation until he is 19, will be required to perform around 50 hours of community service and his record will be clean when he reaches adulthood. James Stokes, attorney for Aaron was pleased with the outcome. Stokes, also the attorney for Alex King, stated that "we did what was best for Aaron." This sentiment was repeated by Michael Paparella, Aaron's father and advocate for his son's rights as a child.

Stokes is also representing Daniel Carter who killed his uncle in an act of self-defense but has been charged with 1st Degree Murder. Daniel could receive life in prison without the possibility of parole. That case is also being tried by D.A. Rimmer who prosecuted Alex and Derek King late last year.

Rimmer has been known for his discord over public support of children being tried in adult courts. Statements made to the press by him, condemned supporters as "Yellow Dogs barking on the side of the road", but he has been criticized by much of the same press for his public display of hatred toward fair treatment of children in courts.

Rimmer has proposed another plea to Stokes concerning Daniel Carter that would see the 15 year old spend the next 9-12 years in an adult prison. He has also been quoted in the news as saying that his case against the boy is weak.

At 14 and 15, brothers, Neal and Jesse Eldridge were tried and sentenced as adults in the state of Arkansas for the murder of their abusive father. The state had been approached by several people about the abuse the brothers were going through at the hands of their father but would not intervene. The Eldridge brothers, in fear for their own lives and that of their two young sisters, killed their father in what they claimed was a self-defensive act. The state would not

take any responsibility and charged them both as adults. They spent over two years in an adult prison where even more abuse was afforded them.

So many children are thrown into the adult court system every day and the state of Florida leads the nation in those type of cases.

Thousands of people have formed groups by internet connections to bring reform to the legal system and support all children being treated as the adults they are not. Every day, support grows stronger as the web sites receive thousands upon thousands of visitors daily.

In the case of Daniel Carter and his prosecutor, David Rimmer, most public opinion sees this as a man trying to improve his win column at the cost of a child that he knows is innocent. It has become a sad state of affairs in our country when ambitiously power hungry men with political dreams use children as the stepping stones to build his career.

It is time for a change.

Some links to visit

- 1 www.betrayedinnocence.org
- 2 www.kidsincourt.com
- 3 girlsandboystown.org
- 4 danielcarter.us