

Kidnapping and Juvenile Crime in Arizona

In recent news, Kumari Fulbright, a former law student at the University of Arizona and contestant for Miss Arizona, was sentenced to two years in prison on December 9th. She had pled guilty in 2007 for her part in the kidnapping and aggravated assault of her boyfriend, aided by her ex-boyfriend and another man.

A once-writer for the Arizona Journal of International and Comparative Law and an executive board member of the Student Bar Association, Fulbright competed in the Miss Arizona pageant in 2006, later receiving her Juris Doctorate in 2009 from the University of Arizona. However, Fulbright's sentencing marks the end of her previously promising academic career for the next two years, during which time she will be in prison. Her sentence will be followed by six months of probation.

What is Kidnapping?

Loosely defined, the term "kidnapping" in criminal law refers to the stealing, carrying off, or abduction by force or fraud, especially for use as a hostage or to extract ransom (Dictionary.com). Kidnapping is a common law offence requiring that one person takes and carries a minor away by force or fraud, without the consent of the person taken and without lawful excuse.

In the state of Arizona, kidnapping is a felony offense that has the potential to dramatically alter your life. For this reason, if you or a loved one have been convicted of a kidnapping offense, it is important to contact an experienced Arizona criminal defense attorney as soon as possible. With the help of an Arizona criminal defense attorney experienced in kidnapping law, your case has the potential to become reduced or even dismissed.

Juvenile Crimes

On the other end of the spectrum, juvenile crimes are very serious issues that have the potential to drastically alter the lives of children exponentially.

The children of every generation deserve the opportunity to succeed in life. For this reason, even though some children may make mistakes, poor decisions should not determine the rest of the child's life. Juvenile crimes are permanent infractions that can dramatically alter a child's future. Officially referred to in criminal law as juvenile delinquency, the term defines antisocial or illegal behavior by children or adolescents.

Causes

There are multiple theories on what causes juvenile delinquency, including mental disorders or behavioral issues like post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), bipolar disorder, or conduct disorder. The fact remains that many of these children have grown up in less than admirable environments, living in a world where juvenile delinquency is commonplace and not out of the norm. For these children, their reality is crime. However, as a parent or guardian of a child convicted of juvenile crime, there is a way to reach a second chance.

Studies into risk factors of juvenile delinquency detail various possible causes for juvenile crimes. For instance, individual risk factors like the abovementioned psychological or behavioral issues may make offending more likely. Mental disorders like antisocial personality disorder may manifest as a child and cause him or her to become a career criminal as an adult, meaning that recognizing your child's risk of crime and its cause is crucial in the quest to help heal their future.

Family environment also plays a large role in causing juvenile crimes. The level of parental supervision, style of discipline, level of parental conflict or separation, criminal status of family members, and quality of the relationship between parents and children can all create environments where juvenile delinquency is more likely.

What to Do

Children and adolescents who are lapsing towards juvenile delinquency are losing an integral part of their childhood: freedom. It is incredibly important to contact a qualified Arizona criminal defense attorney well-versed in juvenile criminal law so that your child has the best chance at having his or her case reduced – or even dismissed. Don't wait. Your child's livelihood and future outlook depends on their improvement, and combating a juvenile crime charge is the first step towards that goal.