

Juvenile Crime Trends: Local Law Enforcement's Perspective

Las Cruces, NM



Disclaimer

- The following presentation shows depictions of violence, firearms, and extremely vulgar language.
- Viewer discretion is advised.
- We have done our best to protect the identities of people shown in this presentation while still providing the details required.



Overview

- Mindset of Juvenile Offenders
- Problems with Current Systems
- Proposed Legislative Solutions





3 teenagers killed and 15 people injured in mass shooting at New Mexico park

NEWS

17-year-old injured in shooting in a park in Las Cruces

by: Luis Barrio
Posted: Jul 28, 2022 / 01:50 PM MDT
Updated: Jul 28, 2022 / 01:56 PM MDT

Four teens charged in Legends West shooting that left 16-year-old boy dead



LCPD: Woman killed in rollover crash, teen driver facing multiple charges

New Mexico teen arrested in connection to deadly shooting in 2024

Teen dies after shooting at Little Caesars in Las Cruces

CRIME

17-year-old boy shot, killed while driving on I-25 in Dona Ana County

by: Luisa Barrios, [Melissa Luna](#)
Posted: Mar 11, 2023 / 01:22 PM MST
Updated: Mar 12, 2023 / 06:08 PM MDT

Escalation of Behaviors

- Posing with guns
- Arguments over the internet (gangs, drugs, money)
- Altercations in real life (perceived disrespect)
- Videos of increasingly risky behavior for internet clout (stealing cars, shooting guns in public spaces, etc.)
- Drive by Shootings (retaliation for arguments and altercations)
- Homicides (often the result of the drive by shootings)



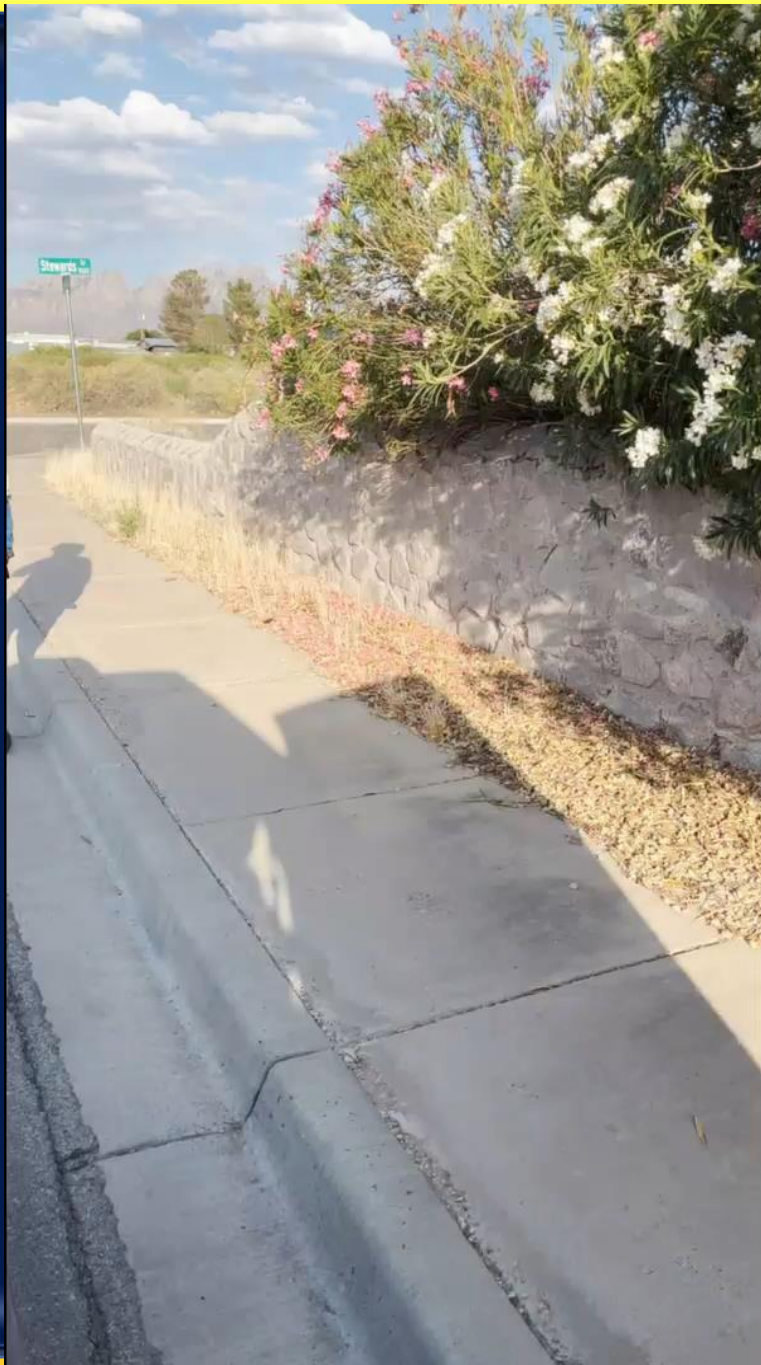










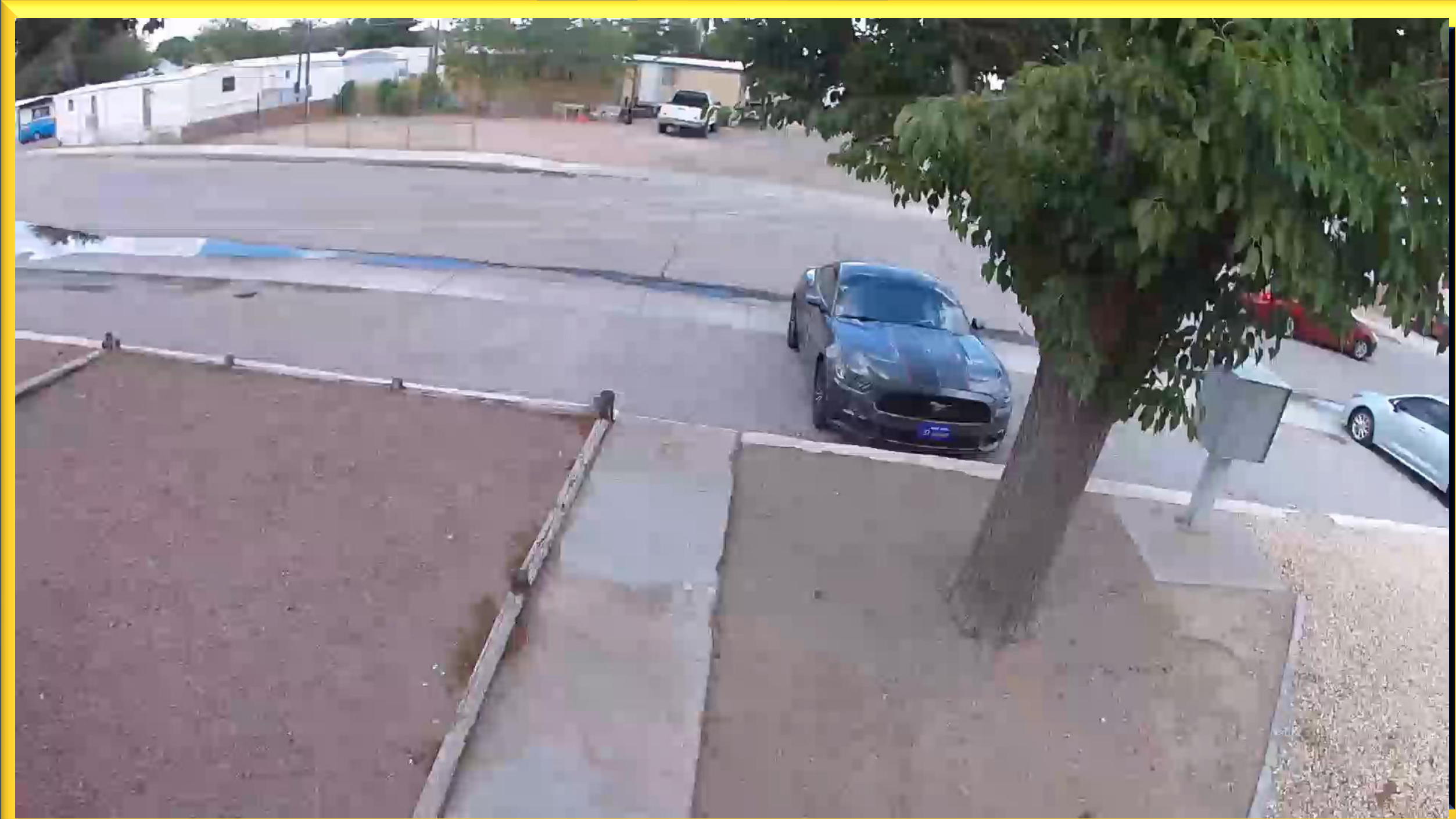




Kouple Shotz
Runitup Jaybo





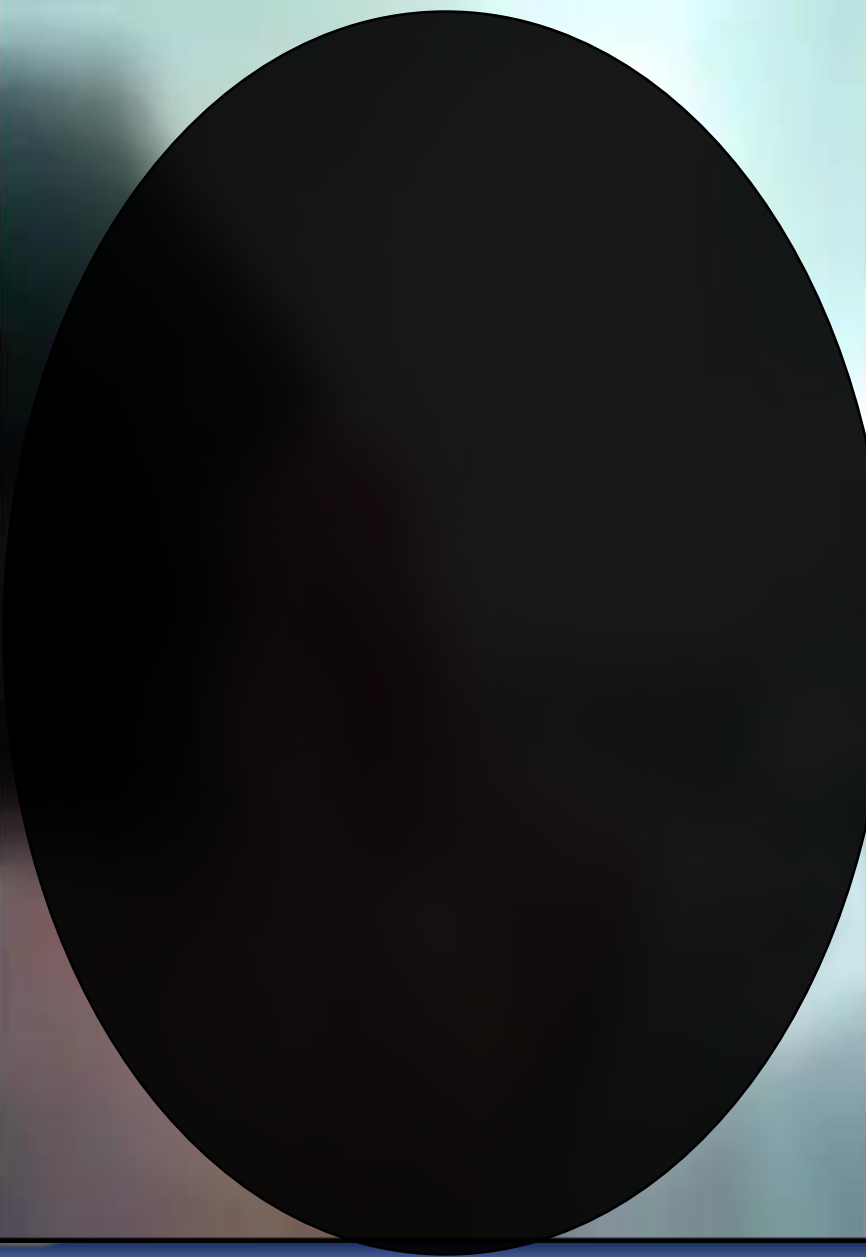


Describing Paralyzing A Child By Shooting Them In The Back

He's a plug. No, you could ask. I can't speak on that case. I can 'cause it got dropped. That shitty case got dropped, but he tried, he stuck a gun at my brother's face. So I fucking went from the back window and I shot him. Boom. Boom. I started shooting at him. I hit that boy in the back. He crashed. Paralyzed forever. His bitch is wiping his ass at this second while we're talking <laugh>. I put that. you can look that shit up on the, on the news <laugh>. This bitch is wiping his ass. Yep.





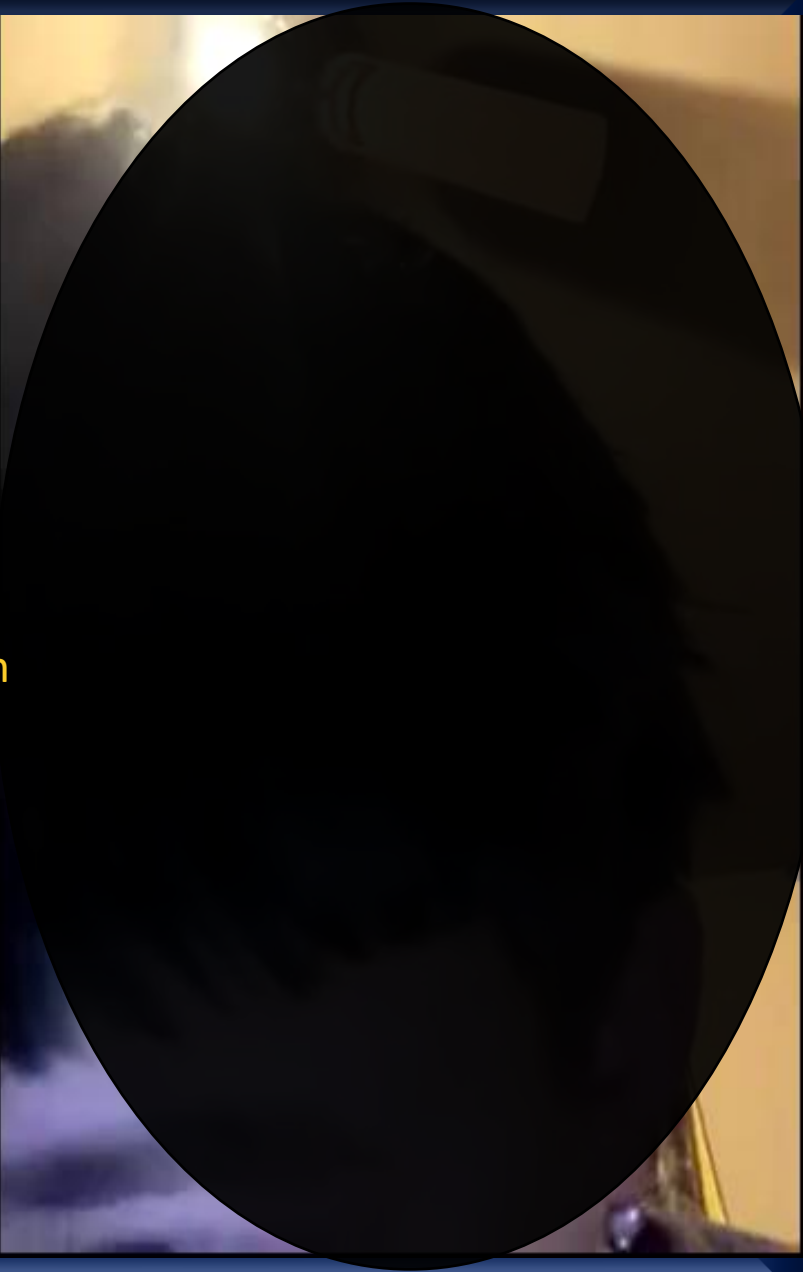


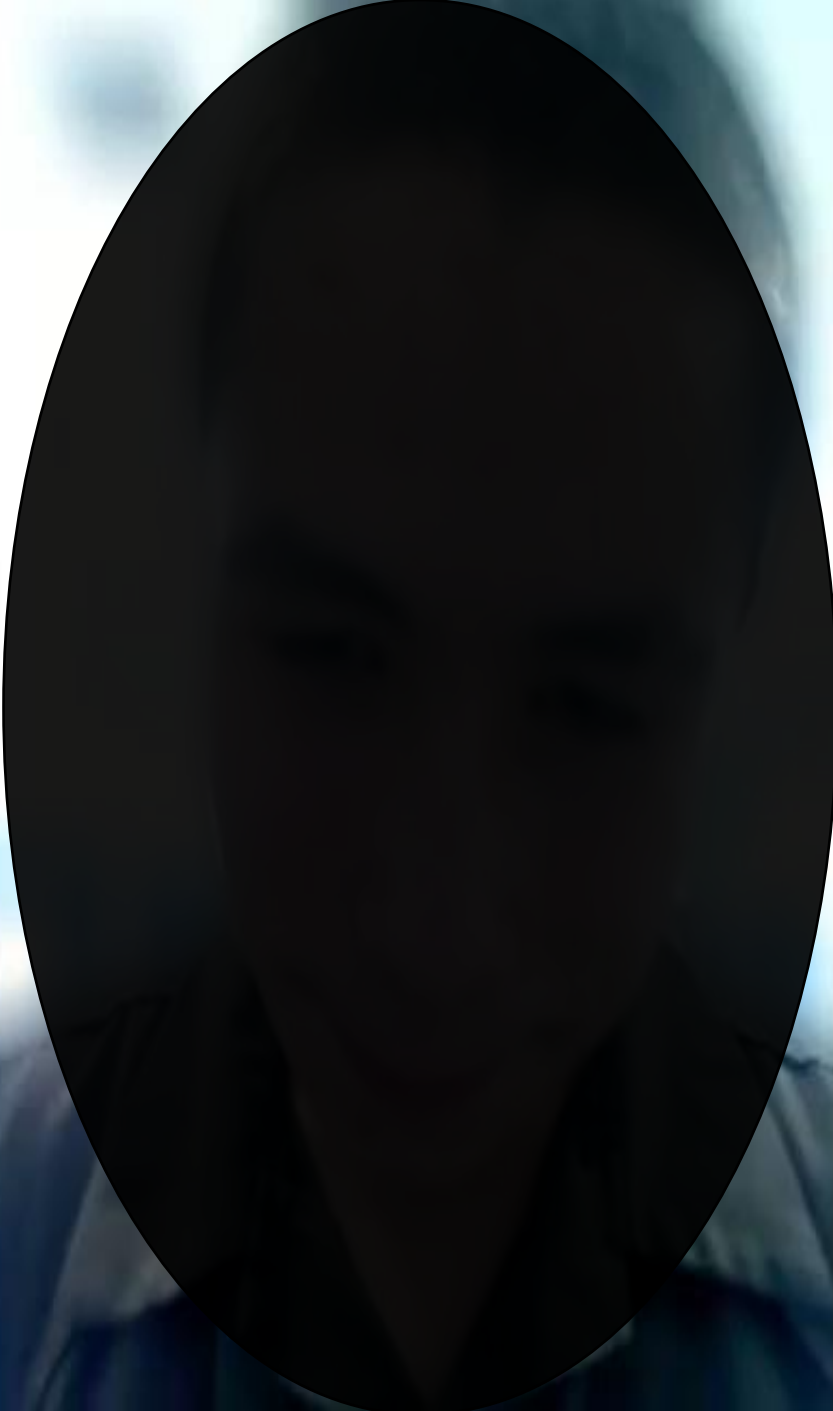
Discussing an incident
where another child
was beaten badly,
resulting in great
bodily harm

“I thought I killed him ni**a
beat that ni**a to death. “

“I got scars on my hand from
that ni**a fool.”

“I broke my hand and my
fu**ing foot on that ni**a”



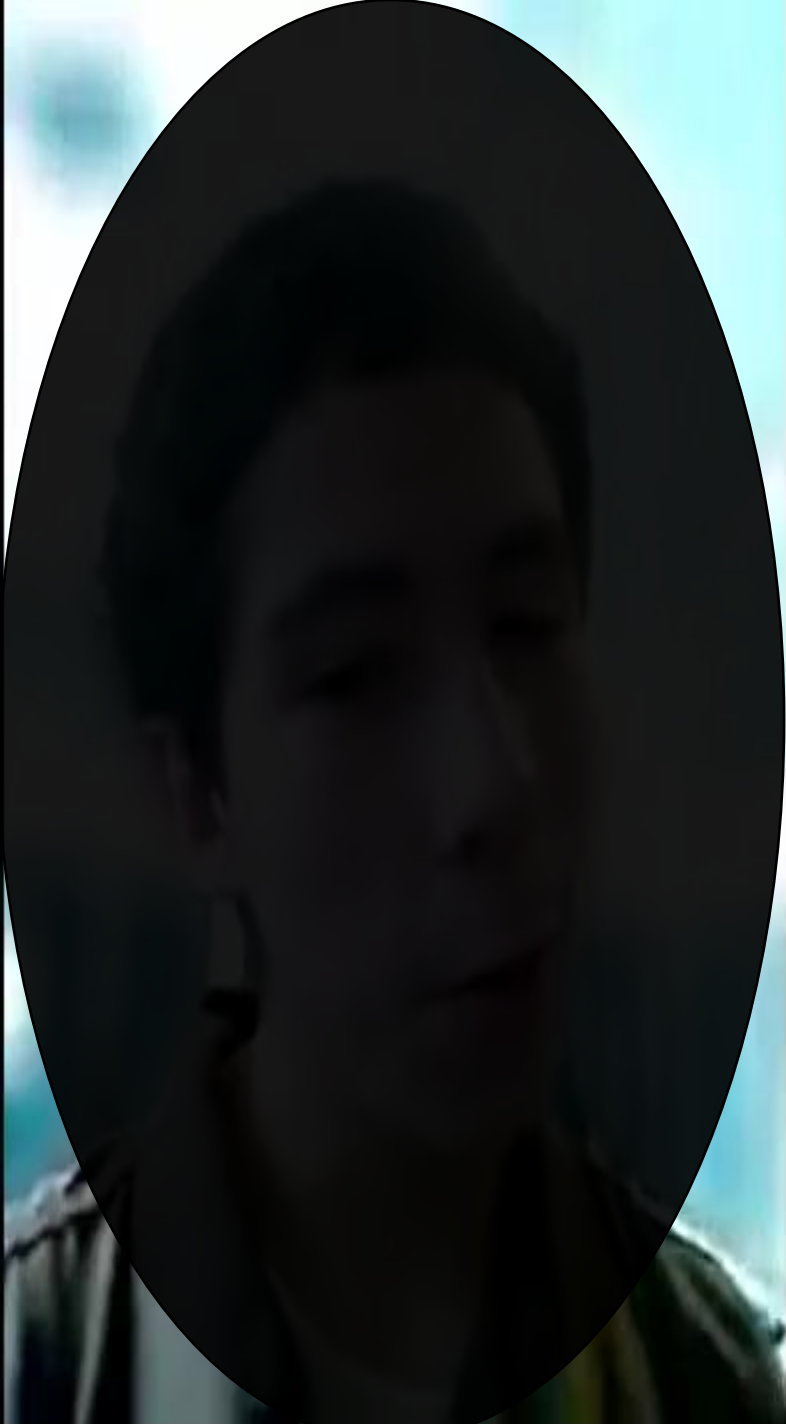


Discussing a shooting in which
another child was struck
5 times by an AR-15

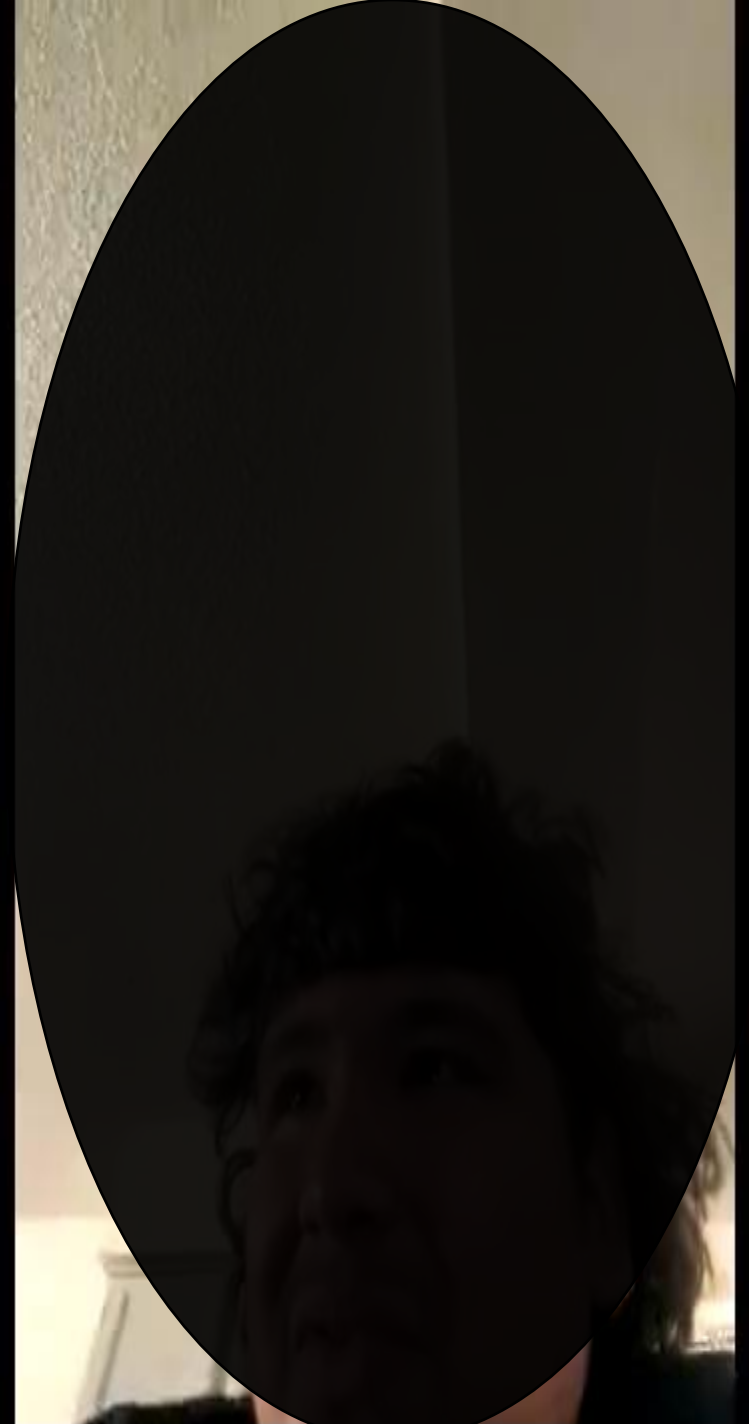
“He started laughing so
I started laughing when I was
busting at the ni**a and I was
laughing when his body dropped”

“He wasn’t laughing when
his body dropped, ni**a was
screaming for his life”





“It’s not attempted
murder, I didn’t shoot
him above the waist.”



Body

Im crazy now g I don't tolerate bs nigga I shoot for no reason now

Body

Let's double tap him with that ar

Watch you think your tough nigga
watch let me fucking catch you

Watch nigga

Ima barrle check tf outta yo dumb ass
ima put this ar tip in your eye socket



Body

Ima pop his ass proolly like 2 times osrs

But nah if anything if we do this shit just have you run up with a blik and just say run that shit n we will just give you money n after I'll have her drop me off if anything



Tha nigga Tony liked my post I need his addy g ima leave his grandma with a fucking shit bag I promise

Lol bro, you get eight years at the most for murder here in New Mexico

That shit ain't nothing [OBJ]



NM Criminal History	Federal Charge	Federal Disposition
Battery - August 2021 (Dismissed)	Cyber Stalking - November 2024	Convicted - Sentenced to Detention until 18th birthday, probation until 21st birthday.
Possession of a Handgun, Negligent Use of a Deadly Weapon - July 2023 (Nolle)		
Agg. Batt GBH - August 2023 (Nolle)		
Attempted Murder - September 2023 (Nolle)		
Unlawful Taking of a Motor Vehicle (suspected, not charged)		
Strong Armed Robbery (suspected, not charged)		
Shooting at a Dwelling (suspected, not charged)		

NM Criminal History	Federal Charge	Federal Disposition
Unlawful Carrying of a Deadly Weapon, Criminal Damage Larceny (\$500-2500)(Conspiracy) - December 2018 - (Nolle)		
Residential Burglary, Unlawful Taking of a Motor Vehicle - February 2020 - (Nolle)		
Runaway, Resisting an Officer - June 2020 - DA's Office Rejected		
Commercial Burglary, Resisting an Officer - July 2020 Incompetent to Stand Trial	CONTINUED ON NEXT SLIDE	
Criminal Damage to Property - January 2021 Incompetent to Stand Trial		
Auto Burglary, Larceny (Firearm), Concealing ID - September 2021 Incompetent to Stand Trial		
Battery - December 2021 - DA's Office Rejected		

NM Criminal History	Federal Charge	Federal Disposition
Agg. Battery Deadly Weapon, Assault with Intent to Commit a Violent Felony - February 2022 Incompetent to Stand Trial	Possession of a Firearm on School Grounds August 2024	Convicted - Sentenced to Incarceration until his 18th birthday, on Probation until his 21st birthday.
Resisting an Officer - May 2023 - Incompetent to Stand Trial		
Battery on a PO, Resisting an Officer, Escape from the Custody of a Peace Officer - August 2023 - DA's Office Rejected		
Resisting an Officer - November 2023 Incompetent to Stand Trial		
Shooting at a Motor Vehicle - Suspected, not charged		
Unlawful Taking of a Motor Vehicle - Suspected, not charged		

NM Criminal History	Federal Charge	Federal Disposition
Unlawful Carrying of a Deadly Weapon - October 2018 – Incompetent to stand trial		
Attempted Auto Burglary - January 2020 Dismissed		
Auto Theft, Burglary, Resisting an Officer - August 2020 – Incompetent to stand trial	CONTINUED ON NEXT SLIDE	
Unlawful Taking of a Motor Vehicle, Burglary - October 2020 Incompetent to stand trial		
Aggravated Assault, Burglary, Auto Theft, Resisting an Officer – November 2020 Incompetent to stand trial		

NM Criminal History	Federal Charge	Federal Disposition
Shooting From a Motor Vehicle Causing Injury, Resisting an Officer, Auto Burglary- September 2021 Incompetent to stand trial	Robbery (Hobbes Act)	Plead Guilty – Pending Sentencing (6-9 years)
Aggravated Assault Deadly Weapon, Shooting at a Motor Vehicle Causing Injury, Aggravated Battery Deadly Weapon – February 2022 Incompetent to stand trial		
Resisting an Officer, Concealing ID November 2022 Incompetent to stand trial	25 felony charges, 24 misdemeanor charges between age 12 – 17.	
Auto Theft, Resisting an Officer May 2023 Incompetent to stand trial		
Auto Burglary(Firearm) - MARKED LEO UNIT - October 2023 Incompetent to stand trial		
Shooting at a Dwelling (Multiple Counts) - Suspected Not Charged		

Proposed Legislative Solutions

- Treatment Alternatives to dismissal for a Finding of Incompetence
- Updating Unlawful Sale of a Firearm Without a Background Check Statute
- Updating Unlawful Possession of a Handgun by a Person Under Age 19 Statute
- Update Telephonic Harassment Statute
- Enact Gang-Related Sentencing Enhancements
- Invest in and Empower Juvenile Probation Officers



Competency Issues

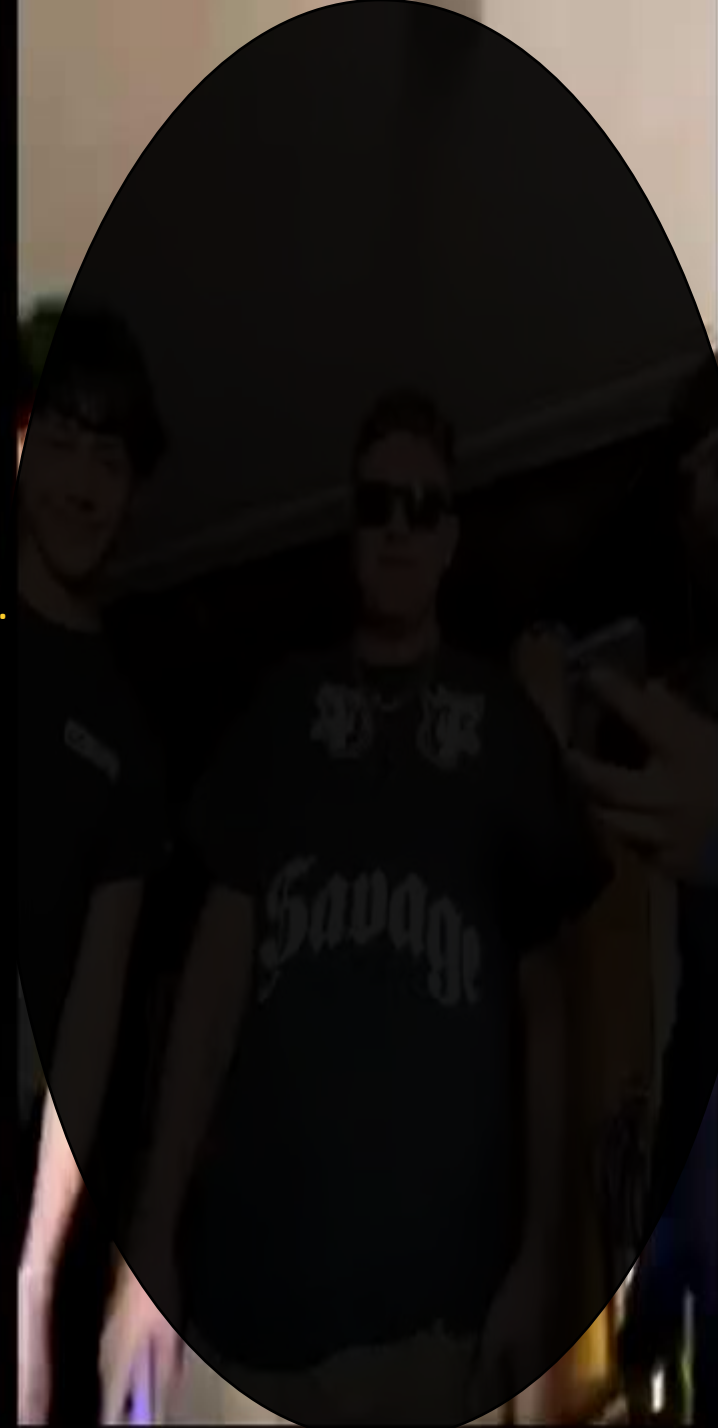
- Increase the number of professionals capable and willing to perform competency evaluations for juveniles.
- Update NMRA 10-242 (Juvenile Competency Proceedings) to mirror House Bill 8.
 - Community-based treatment options
 - Involuntary civil commitment options
 - Criminal Commitment options





Discussing the fact
that they know
they'll be found
incompetent and
their case will be
dismissed

"I know I'm going home.
If I went home for
almost killing someone
I know I'm going home
for this"



Competency Issues

- Every juvenile federal defendant who had been previously found incompetent numerous times in New Mexico, has been found to be competent within the federal system.



Unlawful Sale of a Firearm without a Background Check (30-7-7.1)

- Specifically prohibit, with enhanced penalties, willfully selling, buying, trading, giving, or receiving of a firearm to or from any prohibited person:
 - Convicted Felons
 - People convicted of misdemeanor Domestic Violence
 - People who unlawfully use or are addicted to a controlled substance
 - People with active restraining orders prohibiting domestic violence
 - People under the age of 19
- Additional penalties should apply if the firearm is subsequently used by that person to commit a crime of violence.



Unlawful Possession of a Handgun by a Person Under Age 19 (30-7-2.2) Exceptions:

- (1) in attendance at a hunter's safety course or handgun safety course or participating in a lawful shooting activity;
- (2) engaging in the use of a handgun for target shooting at an established range authorized by the governing body of the jurisdiction in which the range is located or in an area where the discharge of a handgun without legal justification is not prohibited by law;
- (3) engaging in an organized competition involving the use of a handgun;
- (4) participating in or practicing for a performance by an organization that has been granted exemption from federal income tax by the United States commissioner of internal revenue as an organization described in Section 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended or renumbered;
- (5) engaging in legal hunting or trapping activities;
- (6) traveling, with an unloaded handgun in the person's possession, to or from an activity described in Paragraph (1), (2), (3), (4) or (5) of this subsection; or
- (7) on real property under the control of the person's parent, grandparent or legal guardian and the person is being supervised by a parent, grandparent or legal guardian.




Unlawful Possession of a Firearm by a Person Under Age 19

- Create a separate section prohibiting possession of *any* firearm by a person under age 18 (with the above-listed exceptions).
- The same law is already in effect and used daily throughout the state with no constitutional issues in regard to possessing a handgun.





 Letter 2 Him
Atg BabyCeo

Shi gonna be fun 😁



Send message...



Invest in and Empower JPOs

- Empower JPOs to issue arrest orders upon a showing of Probable Cause that a violation of a condition of Probation or Condition of Release has occurred.
- Set a reasonable amount of time for the Children's Court to hold a detention hearing based on the arrest.





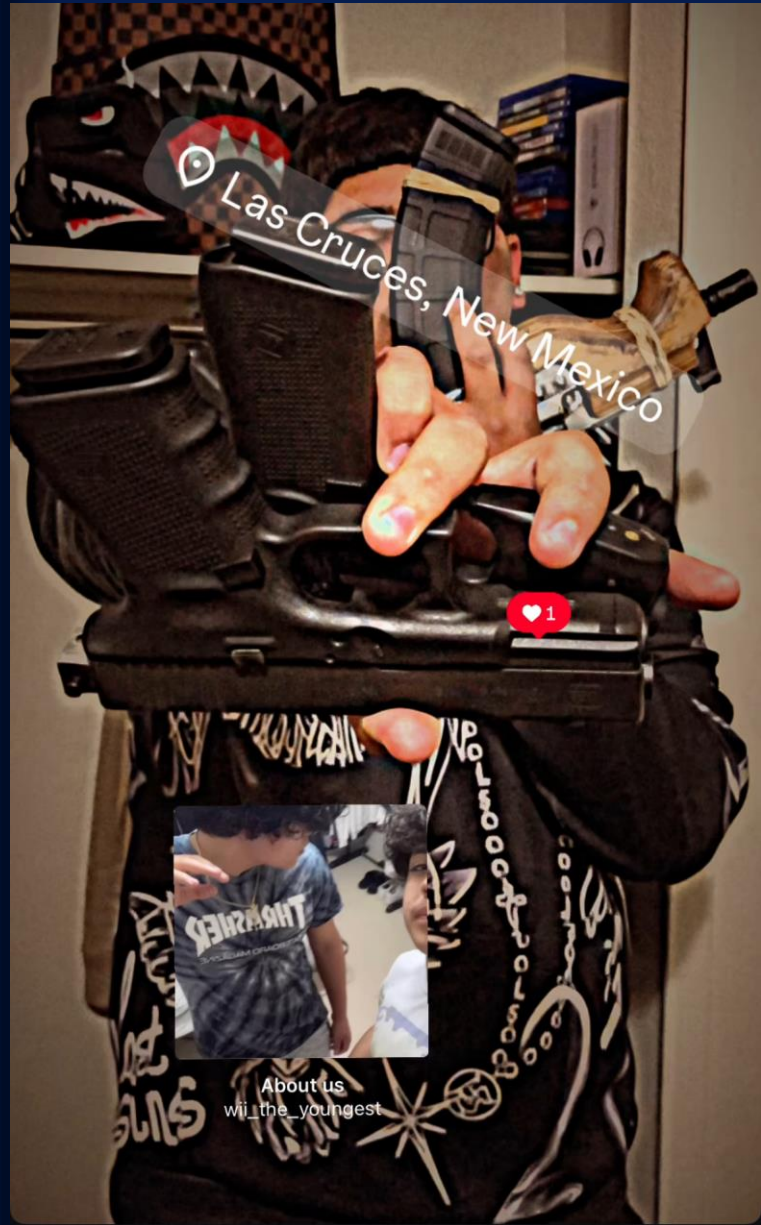
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Discussing lack of accountability while on conditions of release or probation.



A "watch" is a GPS ankle monitor





“As long my ankle monitor stays charged I’m good.”

“I don’t feel like being sober out there.”

“Facts. Fuck that.”



Telephonic Harassment (30-20-12)

- Update the language to include digital communication (texting, video calls, social media etc.)
- Numerous states have adopted this language into similar statutes without any constitutional issues.
- Updated language was introduced in 2025 Legislative Session but got stuck on the floor before the end of the session.



Sentencing Enhancements for Gang Activity

- Defining Criminal Street Gang
- Defining Gang Activity
- Sentencing Enhancements for Juveniles:
 - Mandatory gang intervention counseling
 - Additional probationary supervision time and enhanced conditions
 - Additional community service or educational requirements





Human Failures vs Systemic Failures

- Improving the overall system will reduce the opportunities for failures at individual levels.





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