

JUVENILE COURT FEES & FINES DO NOT BENEFIT COUNTIES

Juvenile court fees and fines create bureaucratic waste in a regressive cycle that generates minimal revenue for counties. While most counties do not disaggregate fees and fines revenue to show juvenile versus adult data, the Association of Circuit Clerks confirmed that eliminating juvenile fees and fines will not have a substantial revenue impact on the counties or State.

- Juvenile case filings in Illinois account for less than 1% of all circuit court cases, and juvenile cases are declining statewide.⁶
- Nearly 60% of all Illinois counties average fewer than 100 juvenile case filings per year, which suggests these counties generate minimal revenue from juvenile court fees and fines.⁷
- The majority of annual county funding is derived from taxpayer revenue or intergovernmental revenue transfers.⁸
- Juvenile fees and fines do not empirically support youth re-integration goals⁹ and do not empirically support the rehabilitative goals of the Juvenile Court Act of 1987.¹⁰

HOWEVER, JUVENILE COURT FEES & FINES CAN DEVASTATE FAMILIES

Research shows that juvenile court fees and fines are racially discriminatory, and they interfere with a minor's ability to fulfill court-ordered obligations.¹¹

- Unpaid fees and fines can become a civil judgment after a minor turns 18, harming their credit and eligibility for student loans, rental leases, or car loans.
- Unpaid fees and fines and the consequences of civil debt can lead to wage garnishments and tax withholdings for youth and their parents or guardians.¹²
- Black and Latino/a youth are referred to juvenile court and detained at much higher rates, which means low-income families of color bear a disproportionate burden of fees and fines in juvenile court.¹³

Juvenile fines and fees result in minimal revenue, contribute to bureaucratic bloat, and place dire financial strain on families. **Putting an end to this practice, SB3621 will:**

Eliminate fines and fees against minors and their families.

Stop all collection activity on fines and fees against minors and their families.

Vacate orders and cancel all unpaid outstanding debt for fines and fees within one year of the effective date of SB3621.

Citations to references are available at stand.org/JuvenileFeesandFinesCitations

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