

My name is Dan Chase. I remember how 16 year old children think. They are maturing but are not yet mature enough to be treated as or considered adults.

We are not adults (physiologically) until age 27. The brain is not fully formed until then. Growing up is a process. Many 16 year olds are easily led astray. They can bow down to peer pressure and go against their own ideals just to fit in.

The law recognizes the immaturity of 16 year olds by considering them to be juveniles who are unfit to make legally binding contracts. 16 year olds are still immature enough that they are treated differently in Court when they commit crimes. At age 16 the crimes committed are buried in Court records because a 16 year old is too immature to be held accountable for the criminally bad decisions they made as children. In all ways 16 year olds are still too immature to be legally treated as and considered to be adults.

In the old days one had to be 20 to be considered an adult. Due to the military draft taking 18 year olds into combat to be shot at resulting in many 18 year olds getting killed defending the Country the voting age was lowered to 18. 16 year old children are not capable of joining the military unless their parents grant them permission. All persons old enough to make their own decisions do not need a permission slip from mom and dad for that decision to be allowed. In short, 16 year olds have been legally declared to be inadequate, immature children who still need and require protection and assistance to live their lives and to make decisions. Only at age 18 does that status change.

If a 16 year old can not be legally responsible for crimes they commit because they are minors then they can not be legally responsible enough to vote. Unless the Constitutional proposal also declares the age of 16 is the new age of majority (adulthood) for ALL purposes then we must not allow minors who are under the control of others (parents, schools etc.) and unable to be legally recognized as being able to make and be held legally responsible for all of their own decisions in all of their life choices then we must not allow 16 year olds to vote.

On the other hand if 16 year olds are granted the status of being a fully grown adult then the Courts must treat them as fully adult and remove all juvenile protections granted by the Court system from all of those children... or adults of so declared... who have reached the age of 16 and achieved the complete status of adulthood at the same time.

Consistency matters. Either treat 16 year olds as children for all purposes or treat 16 year olds as the children approaching adulthood who still need protection.

Daniel Chase
Levant

16 years not being old enough to be given a lifetime criminal record are not old enough to vote. Either treat them as children in all ways or treat them as adults in all ways.