

TEXT OF CONVERSATION HELD ON www.Philly.com SEPTEMBER 30, 2010

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11:44 philly.com:

Welcome to the chat on juvenile crime and mandatory life sentences. Bradley Bridge and Jennifer Bishop-Jenkins will begin chatting at noon but you can enter your questions and comments starting now.

Thursday September 30, 2010 11:44 philly.com

11:47 philly.com:

(Because there are two people chatting on this issue, if you have a question/comment for one of them, please address either "Brad" or "Jennifer" at the beginning so we know who should answer. Thanks.)

Thursday September 30, 2010 11:47 philly.com

12:02 NOVJLJennifer:

Hello everyone -I am Jennifer Bishop Jenkins, a victim family member of a triple homicide by a juvenile lifer in Illinois, and co-founder of a group called the National Organization of Victims of Juvenile Lifers - NOVJL. Our website is www.JLWOPVictims.org

Thursday September 30, 2010 12:02 NOVJLJennifer

12:03 Brad:

Hello, I'm Bradley Bridge. I'm an attorney from the Defender Association of Philadelphia. I represent a number of juvenile lifers who are presently challenging the legality of their life imprisonment sentences.

Thursday September 30, 2010 12:03 Brad

12:04 NOVJLJennifer:

Camille, I think that life sentences are a very serious punishment and are, sadly, sometimes necessary when the crime shows that the person is likely never going to be able to safely function in society

Thursday September 30, 2010 12:04 NOVJLJennifer

12:05 NOVJLJennifer:

I can also tell you that frequent parole hearings are literally torture for victims families

Thursday September 30, 2010 12:05 NOVJLJennifer

12:05 philly.com:

Hang on, here's the question.

Thursday September 30, 2010 12:05 philly.com

12:05 [Comment From Camille Camille:]

I think that life should be life. If we show them leniency how will the learn.

Thursday September 30, 2010 12:05 Camille

12:05 Brad:

I think that we as a society have many goals that are at issue here. One is the teaching model that you suggest. By considering parole at some point maybe decades down the line, I think we're teaching everyone that people can grow and change. That there is hope at some point.

Thursday September 30, 2010 12:05 Brad

12:07 [Comment From Hank Hank:]

Our whole system of crime/ punishment is screwed up. But given that context I don't see a need for making a special exception in these cases

Thursday September 30, 2010 12:07 Hank

12:07 NOVJLJennifer:

I think its important to say here that natural life sentences are extremely serious and should only be reserved for offenders so dangerous and crimes so heinous that life in prison is appropriate. And when you can reasonable determine, as in the case of a sociopath offender that killed my family that they are dangerous.

Thursday September 30, 2010 12:07 NOVJLJennifer

12:07 Brad:

I would completely agree with Jennifer that murders who can never function safely in society are quite unlikely to be granted parole. By what about those who made a mistake when they were very young and, by the passage of time, we can see that they are no longer a danger. What should be do about them?

Thursday September 30, 2010 12:07 Brad

12:09 [Comment From julie julie:]

I didn't realize there were juvenile offenders given life sentences for non-homicides. What is the rationale there?

Thursday September 30, 2010 12:09 julie

12:09 NOVJLJennifer:

Those are now unconsitutional

Thursday September 30, 2010 12:09 NOVJLJennifer

12:10 Brad:

In Pennsylvania natural life sentences are not reserved to those who are the most dangerous or the crimes the most serious. Natural life senteces in Pennsylvania are given out for felony murder and not just intentional murders.

Thursday September 30, 2010 12:10 Brad

12:11 NOVJLJennifer:

You cannot know how much torture the parole process is to victims families - parole sentences should only be granted in lesser crimes so that there is no more further unnecessary suffering when its clear the offender will not qualify for release anyway

Thursday September 30, 2010 12:11 NOVJLJennifer

12:11 NOVJLJennifer:

For those who don't know felony murder means an accomplice, and sometimes

they are not as culpable. But sometimes the accomplice is even MORE culpable.
Thursday September 30, 2010 12:11 NOVJLJennifer

12:12 [Comment From Camille Camille:]
I just dont think it is fair to the victim family especially if the victim is innocent.

Thursday September 30, 2010 12:12 Camille

12:13 Brad:

I understand that the parole process would be very painful for victim families. That is why a juvenile should be considered for parole after, maybe 20 years. The passage of time might make it less painful (though no doubt still painful) for the families. Also, by the passage of time we'd see if juvenile lifers have learned and grown and can be safely released.

Thursday September 30, 2010 12:13 Brad

12:14 NOVJLJennifer:

Whatever changes that you all in Pennsylvania decide you want to make to your laws, prospective changes (from this point on) will not be harmful to victims because they will know the conditions of the sentence from the point of the trial. But retroactive changes cannot be made this way.

Thursday September 30, 2010 12:14 NOVJLJennifer

12:15 [Comment From Ron Ron:]

Brad: Are there any statistics you could use to compare recidivism of paroled juvenile offenders who have served major time to adults who have served major time? This might help to support the idea that juveniles are good candidates for rehabilitation.

Thursday September 30, 2010 12:15 Ron

12:15 NOVJLJennifer:

Nationally recidivism rates (repeat offending) are VERY high for younger offenders - about 50%

Thursday September 30, 2010 12:15 NOVJLJennifer

12:15 Brad:

Felony murder means a killing during the course of a felony. I represent several juveniles convicted of felony murder where a person was shoved to the ground and died much later due to injuries in the fall. That person is doing the same life imprisonment sentence as a person who intentionally shot a person.

Thursday September 30, 2010 12:15 Brad

12:16 NOVJLJennifer:

the lowest recidivism rates come from geriatric age offenders

Thursday September 30, 2010 12:16 NOVJLJennifer

12:17 Brad:

Actually, among the lowest recidivism rates as those convicted of murder. The highest are those convicted of, say, drug crimes.

Thursday September 30, 2010 12:17 Brad

12:17 [Comment From nadine Phillips nadine Phillips:]

What about the ones who are in jail because they didn't have a good lawyer and they stack the deck against them?

Thursday September 30, 2010 12:17 nadine Phillips

12:17 NOVJLJennifer:

I agree with Brad that the INTENTIONALITY of the offender should matter in what the sentence is and that mandatory sentencing often sweeps in crimes too broadly

Thursday September 30, 2010 12:17 NOVJLJennifer

12:18 NOVJLJennifer:

But recidivism by age is a CLEAR statistical trend nationally - the younger the offender, the higher the recidivism rates

Thursday September 30, 2010 12:18 NOVJLJennifer

12:18 Brad:

Phillips: The question of competence of counsel is not really the question we're addressing. We're only discussing the sentence involved but you are certainly right that everyone should have competent counsel.

Thursday September 30, 2010 12:18 Brad

12:18 [Comment From Camille Camille:]

Jennifer people need to make better decisions and quit following the crowd. If you do the crime you do the time. If I lost a loved one I would not want them to have the chance to get out. The fact that they are kids killing makes it worse. Where are the parents they are allowing the streets to raise their children

Thursday September 30, 2010 12:18 Camille

12:19 NOVJLJennifer:

Thanks Camille, I agree but there are often cases such as the triple homicide in my family by a very bright 16 year old who lived a life of privilege where he acted entirely alone, pre-planning for months

Thursday September 30, 2010 12:19 NOVJLJennifer

12:20 NOVJLJennifer:

He just wanted to see what it would feel like to kill and my sister, her husband and their baby were unfortunate to live right near him and directly across the street from a police station he was trying to show his toughness to.

Thursday September 30, 2010 12:20 NOVJLJennifer

12:21 NOVJLJennifer:

And parents do need to do a much better job with their teens in many cases. Certainly that was true in our case

Thursday September 30, 2010 12:21 NOVJLJennifer

12:21 Brad:

Camille: It's understandable that you would never want a person who killed a love one to get out of prison. However, society has an interest, too, in the incarceration of people. The question is can society be safe if a juvenile lifer is released. The lifer involved in Jennifer's tragedy may be a person that can never be released because they can't grow or change.

Thursday September 30, 2010 12:21 Brad

12:21 [Comment From TX22 TX22:]

Intentionality doesn't matter to the murdered person. They had to intend to commit armed robbery, for example. It's not like it was all just some unforeseen accident...

Thursday September 30, 2010 12:21 TX22

12:22 NOVJLJennifer:

TX22 - I agree - if you are setting out to commit a crime and someone gets killed in that process, that is full out murder.

Thursday September 30, 2010 12:22 NOVJLJennifer

12:22 Brad:

TX22: You are right that intentionality doesn't matter to the victim. However, it does matter to the rest of society when viewing the situation. We look at intentionality to determine how bad a crime is--not just the consequences.

Thursday September 30, 2010 12:22 Brad

12:22 [Comment From Camille Camille:]

Brad: I actually don't think it is fair to do life for drugs if you didn't kill anyone. To me that's just crazy

Thursday September 30, 2010 12:22 Camille

12:23 NOVJLJennifer:

I don't think there is anyone in Pennsylvania doing life for a non-homicide related crime, correct?

Thursday September 30, 2010 12:23 NOVJLJennifer

12:24 Brad:

Camille--but there are many cases where those convicted of selling drugs are sentenced to life imprisonment. Sentences need to be proportionate to the crime. And at some point down the road, we can assess whether there is any point in continued incarceration.

Thursday September 30, 2010 12:24 Brad

12:24 NOVJLJennifer:

Brad are those for federal or state crimes? I know that federal law defines some life and even death sentences for some drug king pins.

Thursday September 30, 2010 12:24 NOVJLJennifer

12:24 Brad:

Jennifer is correct that there are no non-homicide juvenile lifers. All 472 were convicted of either 1st (intentional) or 2nd degree murder (felony).

Thursday September 30, 2010 12:24 Brad

12:25 [Comment From TX22 TX22:]

Well I'm society and I don't want some kid that decided to go commit a crime and found it got out of hand set free to do the same to me just because he was 17 instad oof 18.

Thursday September 30, 2010 12:25 TX22

12:25 NOVJLJennifer:

TX 22 is expressing what most people I talk to agree with - public safety comes first, and sadly, there are some people who are just by their very nature too dangerous to ever walk among us. This is sad, but true

Thursday September 30, 2010 12:25 NOVJLJennifer

12:26 NOVJLJennifer:

I know that no one wants to believe that teens could ever be that dangerous, but sadly, some are.

Thursday September 30, 2010 12:26 NOVJLJennifer

12:27 Brad:

TX22: You indeed are "society" as are 300 million others of us. So the question is, whether we can determine at some point down the road that the person is no longer dangerous. Jennifer is correct that teens can be quite dangerous. The question is whether that dangerous teenager is also a dangerous 40 year old.

Thursday September 30, 2010 12:27 Brad

12:27 NOVJLJennifer:

I think the real debate for you all in Pennsylvania is this: Does your law reach too broadly or are there adequate legal protections for younger offenders charged as adults with serious crimes?

Thursday September 30, 2010 12:27 NOVJLJennifer

12:27 [Comment From Camille Camille:]

Jennifer: I wish you well and wish you strength. What is your view do you think some of the them should have a second chance.

Thursday September 30, 2010 12:27 Camille

12:28 NOVJLJennifer:

It is a balancing act - as justice always is. Part of the equation HAS to be how much the victims families will suffer from a lifetime of regular parole hearings. . .

Thursday September 30, 2010 12:28 NOVJLJennifer

12:28 NOVJLJennifer:

I think that those currently under a life sentence should only be released through the current processes available to them - clemency and appeals.

Thursday September 30, 2010 12:28 NOVJLJennifer

12:29 Brad:

Jennifer, under Pennsylvania law anyone charged with murder no matter how young automatically starts in adult court. You can ask the judge to send the matter to juvenile court but that request will often be rejected. Once convicted in adult court of 1st or 2nd degree murder, there is only one sentence. Lif imprisonment without parole.

Thursday September 30, 2010 12:29 Brad

12:29 [Comment From Jacquie Jacquie:]

Personally, I feel that intent or not, a 14 yr old child is not functioning with a "fully-developed" brain and is not capable of the same thought process of an adult. Sentencing a juvenile to life in prison with out the possibility of parole is CRUEL

Thursday September 30, 2010 12:29 Jacquie

12:29 NOVJLJennifer:

I think that for the future, Pennsylvania may decide that they want to increase legal protections for younger offenders, and reduce the crimes that can be charged this way, after you all have a full out discussion that INCLUDES every single victims family

Thursday September 30, 2010 12:29 NOVJLJennifer

12:30 NOVJLJennifer:

Jacquie its interesting you bring up the brain argument- I have some thoughts on this

Thursday September 30, 2010 12:30 NOVJLJennifer

12:31 NOVJLJennifer:

We all know that the younger the offender, the less culpable they are. Most of your cases there, though, are 17. And we all know that there are always EXCEPTIONS - some 15 year olds are very immature, others very mature. Its individual, isn't it?

Thursday September 30, 2010 12:31 NOVJLJennifer

12:31 Brad:

The latest brain research comports with what we all know about young kids. They don't really understand the consequences of their actions the same way adults do. Consequently, it is unjust to treat them the same as adults.

Thursday September 30, 2010 12:31 Brad

12:31 NOVJLJennifer:

Thats why your law protects each juvenile transferred with hearings to determine their culpability.

Thursday September 30, 2010 12:31 NOVJLJennifer

12:32 NOVJLJennifer:

Also the brain research is very misunderstood and misapplied by activists.

Thursday September 30, 2010 12:32 NOVJLJennifer

12:32 NOVJLJennifer:

Recommend you read "Brain Overclaim Syndrome" - google it

Thursday September 30, 2010 12:32 NOVJLJennifer

12:32 Brad:

Jennifer but we know that as a group 13 year olds aren't the same as adults. Yet in Pennsylvania we have 2 13 years olds doing life sentences. We have 15 14 year olds and 41 15 year olds.

Thursday September 30, 2010 12:32 Brad

12:32 [Comment From Camille Camille:]

Jacqie : There brain my not be fully develope but there actions are. If the kids today want to be grown then trat them like they are the good and bad.

Thursday September 30, 2010 12:32 Camille

12:33 NOVJLJennifer:

I would suggest that raising your "lower end age" for adult transfer might be a good area for Pennsylvania to pursue

Thursday September 30, 2010 12:33 NOVJLJennifer

12:33 Brad:

Sorry: as a group 13 year olds aren't the same as adults. Yet in Pennsylvania we have 2 13 years olds doing life sentences. We have 15 14 year olds and 41 15 year olds.

Thursday September 30, 2010 12:33 Brad

12:33 NOVJLJennifer:

Nationally, almost all juvenile lifers (88%) are 16 or 17

Thursday September 30, 2010 12:33 NOVJLJennifer

12:33 [Comment From Jerome Jerome:]

It's a sad thing but once someone enters the prison system they are exposed to more criminal attitudes and experiences that wind up making them less, not more, social. Whether or not it's fair for kids to go to prison, we have to look at this and acknowledge it.

Thursday September 30, 2010 12:33 Jerome

12:34 NOVJLJennifer:

Indeed, Jaquie, and we need prison reform to make sure that anyone that is going to be released someday has been "habilitated" and is not a danger

Thursday September 30, 2010 12:34 NOVJLJennifer

12:34 Brad:

Jerome, while prison can make some people less socially appropriate, that isn't true for everyone. If we were to consider parole down the line, that would be one of the questions that we'd have to look at.

Thursday September 30, 2010 12:34 Brad

12:34 NOVJLJennifer:

Also, in many states 16 IS an adult

Thursday September 30, 2010 12:34 NOVJLJennifer

12:35 NOVJLJennifer:

But parole is NOT a reliable process. It does not have a good record nationally for sorting out who is dangerous and who is not. Anyone can behave well in prison.

Thursday September 30, 2010 12:35 NOVJLJennifer

12:35 Brad:

In Pennsylvania, there is no minimum age to charge someone with murder. There is a case of a 9 year old.

Thursday September 30, 2010 12:35 Brad

12:36 NOVJLJennifer:

I would agree with Brad that the fact that Pennsylvania has no bottom age, where most states do, at 13 or 14, that might be a good law to propose prospectively.

Thursday September 30, 2010 12:36 NOVJLJennifer

12:36 NOVJLJennifer:

I know victims families there that would support such a change

Thursday September 30, 2010 12:36 NOVJLJennifer

12:36 Brad:

In Pennsylvania we have drawn the line at adulthood at 18. 17 is still a juvenile for many purposes, like getting married without parental permission, entering into contracts, buying cigarettes, etc.

Thursday September 30, 2010 12:36 Brad

12:37 [Comment From Will Will:]

Hoe do we calculate a debt to society? If a teen and an 80-year-old commit murder, they're not going to pay the same amount if given "life."

Thursday September 30, 2010 12:37 Will

12:37 NOVJLJennifer:

I don't see punishment as a debt to society. That somehow implies that their prison sentence makes up for what they have done. That is absurd to a murder victims family member.

Thursday September 30, 2010 12:37 NOVJLJennifer

12:38 Brad:

Wil is right that the age of a person convicted will largely determine how long a debt they would pay to society for a life sentence. Oddly, a juvenile convicted at 15 would pay a debt 10 years longer than a co-defendant convicted at age 25. That's perverse

Thursday September 30, 2010 12:38 Brad

12:38 NOVJLJennifer:

If someone of approximately adult capable thinking preplans a cold-calculated multiple murder, then life is appropriate.

Thursday September 30, 2010 12:38 NOVJLJennifer

12:38 [Comment From Will Will:]
Jennifer, true yet we always hear Give him another chance, he's paid his debt to society. That's what I'm saying is that's a nonsensical criterion.

Thursday September 30, 2010 12:38 Will

12:39 NOVJLJennifer:

I think the best way to give offenders serving life another chance is to change their prison conditions - put them in medium security - let them mentor other troubled youth, work, make restitution, even get an education

Thursday September 30, 2010 12:39 NOVJLJennifer

12:40 Brad:

The question is does society have a continuing interest in continued incarceration well after the person is no longer dangerous. I currently represent a person convicted in 1953 of murder. He's now 73 and is no longer dangerous to anyone --- and hasn't been for decades. How much sense does it make to continue to incarcerate him.

Thursday September 30, 2010 12:40 Brad

12:40 NOVJLJennifer:

They can still have a very meaningful, even helpful life, from behind bars while keeping us safe, and protecting the victims families from the torture of a lifetime of parole hearings.

Thursday September 30, 2010 12:40 NOVJLJennifer

12:41 [Comment From PatintheBurgh PatintheBurgh:]

They can have a second chance as soon as their victims get one

Thursday September 30, 2010 12:41 PatintheBurgh

12:41 NOVJLJennifer:

Has this offender applied for clemency?

Thursday September 30, 2010 12:41 NOVJLJennifer

12:41 NOVJLJennifer:

I think that this offender, if rehabilitated, should be given work opportunities inside the prison to make restitution to the victims

Thursday September 30, 2010 12:41 NOVJLJennifer

12:42 Brad:

My 73 year old has not yet applied for clemency. That will be coming.

AS to PatintheBurgh, that's a bumpersticker slogan but doesn't advance the conversation.

Thursday September 30, 2010 12:42 Brad

12:43 [Comment From Bryan Bryan:]

Jennifer----Once you are given 'Life' you do not have the ability to work with youth offenders, or go to honor blocks. 'Life' is 'Life'

Thursday September 30, 2010 12:43 Bryan

12:43 NOVJLJennifer:

Actually, Brad, don't dismiss the truth of that statement. The sense of injustice from most of us that someone who took SO much gets so much support and attention from offender advocates when there are virtually NO resources or support for victims families - THAT is a crime

Thursday September 30, 2010 12:43 NOVJLJennifer

12:45 NOVJLJennifer:

Bryan - I agree that life should mean life. I also think personally, though I do not speak for NOVJL here, that offenders should be given a chance, if they are improved in their maturity, to make restitution to society and victims. Victims need resources - this is a good possible source for funds they desperately need.

Thursday September 30, 2010 12:45 NOVJLJennifer

12:45 Brad:

I'm not dismissing the truth, I'm just saying that's doesn't further the conversation.

Bryan: Lifers in prison can and do mentor others. In fact, one of the most stable and helpful populations in the Pennsylvania prison system has been the juvenile lifers. They are there for the longest period and have the most interest in stability.

Thursday September 30, 2010 12:45 Brad

12:46 [Comment From Bob Bob:]

Jennifer, are you proposing that offenders work to make restitution as a condition of release? Or is it a whole separate issue?

Thursday September 30, 2010 12:46 Bob

12:46 NOVJLJennifer:

How does it not advance the conversation to point out that what the offenders took is irreplaceable? And that people feel that there should be a permanent cost for that. . .

Thursday September 30, 2010 12:46 NOVJLJennifer

12:47 NOVJLJennifer:

No, Bob, I am saying that for those that Brad feels are no longer dangerous serving life that they should be given the chance to help victims and society from where they are.

Thursday September 30, 2010 12:47 NOVJLJennifer

12:48 Brad:

Indeed, what offenders took are irreplaceable. However, let's suppose that anyone looking at an offender who has been in for a long time would agree that s/he is no longer dangerous. Would people agree that s/he should be released (assuming that they've been in for decades)?

Thursday September 30, 2010 12:48 Brad

12:48 NOVJLJennifer:

No longer dangerous is an important consideration, but not the only one.
Thursday September 30, 2010 12:48 NOVJLJennifer

12:48 Brad:
What are other considerations?
Thursday September 30, 2010 12:48 Brad

12:49 Brad:
Could you posit a model that would permit a juvenile murder to someday be released?
Thursday September 30, 2010 12:49 Brad

12:49 NOVJLJennifer:
The heinousness of the crime, the victims families, the deterrence, and the appropriate punishment for the crime.
Thursday September 30, 2010 12:49 NOVJLJennifer

12:49 [Comment From Bryan Bryan:]
I also think that in the case of the 73 year old we need to consider the cost of keeping him behind bars
Thursday September 30, 2010 12:49 Bryan

12:50 NOVJLJennifer:
Sure, there are lots of murder cases all across the nation where life is not the punishment, nor should it be. But there are some that are - factors vary widely.
Thursday September 30, 2010 12:50 NOVJLJennifer

12:50 Brad:
The cost of keeping an older inmate behind bars can run over \$100,000/year. Certainly that money could be spent more intelligently.
Thursday September 30, 2010 12:50 Brad

12:51 [Comment From esther esther:]
This discussion shows that we still do not have a consensus even on what the purpose of incarceration is. Can we agree that punishment, rather than just keeping dangerous individuals out of society, is one of the purposes?
Thursday September 30, 2010 12:51 esther

12:51 NOVJLJennifer:
Recently just here in Illinois a 87 year old man committed child rape and murder. There is no perfect predictive formula but life sentences are expensive and should be available and appropriately rare.
Thursday September 30, 2010 12:51 NOVJLJennifer

12:52 NOVJLJennifer:
Esther - I think you are right.
Thursday September 30, 2010 12:52 NOVJLJennifer

12:53 Brad:
I think dangerousness is, probably, the most important purpose. Secondarily is deterrence. So what happens after decades of incarceration: many juveniles were

dangerous when they went in but are no longer so. The 87 year old shows there's no perfection in our universe but then we knew that. We just must make the best judgements based upon the best information.

Thursday September 30, 2010 12:53 Brad

12:54 [Comment From Bryan Bryan:]

Brad - I was in the PA system and Youth offenders are kept apart from adult offenders. I was able to speak at schools only because I had 2mc status and an parole date.

Thursday September 30, 2010 12:54 Bryan

12:54 Brad:

To my knowlege, juvenile lifers are not separated from the adult population.

Thursday September 30, 2010 12:54 Brad

12:55 Brad:

This came up because we were representing an 11 year old. She would have been in prison with the rest of inmates.

Thursday September 30, 2010 12:55 Brad

12:57 [Comment From JusWondering JusWondering:]

Have the victims' death sentence been shortened at all? I don't think so.

Thursday September 30, 2010 12:57 JusWondering

12:57 [Comment From Bryan Bryan:]

I have met some lifers that were in prison for 20+ years. I would say that there were a couple out of many that are not the same person that committed the crime years earlier. I just think there should be a process in place to rereview each case.

Thursday September 30, 2010 12:57 Bryan

12:57 [Comment From joy2beme joy2beme:]

what happend to this nation,i throught we as a nation belived in second chances

Thursday September 30, 2010 12:57 joy2beme

12:57 [Comment From joy2beme joy2beme:]

what about the case when a adult uses a child, to keep them from getting life ao worst.

Thursday September 30, 2010 12:57 joy2beme

12:57 [Comment From JusWondering JusWondering:]

If you bleeding hearts didn't insist on coddling prisoners, the cost wouldn't be so high.

Thursday September 30, 2010 12:57 JusWondering

12:57 [Comment From Bryan Bryan:]

Ester- We have to consider that because the prison system is geared for

warehousing no rehabilitation.

Thursday September 30, 2010 12:57 Bryan

12:57 [Comment From Bryan Bryan:]

Jennifer - I was only talking about cost as it relates to a youth offender. I do not think we should reconsider Life for those that made decisions as an adult

Thursday September 30, 2010 12:57 Bryan

12:57 [Comment From Bryan Bryan:]

Brad - that may be the case in a womans prison because there are only 2 but for men they are kept on different blocks.

Thursday September 30, 2010 12:57 Bryan

12:57 NOVJLJennifer:

Joy - the offender in my cases had already gotten 4 previous chances from other serious and violent crimes

Thursday September 30, 2010 12:57 NOVJLJennifer

12:58 philly.com:

That's all the time we have for new questions, but I wanted to get those in.

Thursday September 30, 2010 12:58 philly.com

12:58 NOVJLJennifer:

JusWondering- I think that offenders should have to work to pay for their own upkeep.

Thursday September 30, 2010 12:58 NOVJLJennifer

12:58 philly.com:

Can we have any closing thoughts from each of you? Thanks.

Thursday September 30, 2010 12:58 philly.com

1:00 NOVJLJennifer:

I hope that Pennsylvania will commit to prioritize support to and inclusion of all the victims families of these horrible crimes committed by juvenile lifers. Make sure they are all at the table in your policy discussions there. Thanks to all who support public safety and victims families. Please visit our website

www.jlwopvictims.org to stay in touch with us nationally.

Thursday September 30, 2010 1:00 NOVJLJennifer

1:00 Brad:

There are too many questions to answer them all. I'm sorry. This is an important conversation that won't be settled today. It is important for all viewpoints to be expressed. I believe that juveniles can learn and grow from the mistakes they've made. They aren't as bad as the worst thing they ever did. And often if is truly heinous. As a society I believe that we'd be better off if, after a lengthy period of incarceration, parole was a possibility. As society, we would need to be assured that they were no longer a danger. If that is met, then there is no purpose in continued incarceration.

Thursday September 30, 2010 1:00 Brad

1:01 Philly.com:

That's all the time we have for today. Thank you Brad and Jennifer for doing the chat.

Thursday September 30, 2010 1:01 Philly.com

1:01 NOVJLJennifer:

Thanks [Philly.com](http://www.philly.com)!

Thursday September 30, 2010 1:01 NOVJLJennifer

1:01 Brad:

Thank you.

Thursday September 30, 2010 1:01 Brad

1:01 Philly.com:

This is part of our feature the Hot Button on the Daily News homepage, every weekday lunchtime. Check it out. <http://www.philly.com/dailynews>

Thursday September 30, 2010 1:01 Philly.com