

SHORT TITLE: Juveniles; lowering age for reverse certification;  
requiring certification at certain age for violent felony crime;  
emergency.

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 44th Legislature (1994)

SENATE BILL NO. 865

By: Leftwich of the Senate

and

Paulk of the House

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to juveniles; amending 10 O.S. 1991, Sections 1104.2, as last amended by Section 4, Chapter 342, O.S.L. 1993, Section 1, Chapter 205, O.S.L. 1993, and 1112, as amended by Section 7, Chapter 342, O.S.L. 1993 (10 O.S. Supp. 1993, Sections 1104.2, 1104.3 and 1112), which relate to reverse certifications, juveniles from other states and certification of juveniles; lowering age for reverse certification; lowering age for considering juveniles as adults for purposes of detention under certain circumstance; requiring certification at certain age for violent felony crime; providing exception; limiting time to commence certain criminal proceeding; and declaring an emergency.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 10 O.S. 1991, Section 1104.2, as last amended by Section 4, Chapter 342, O.S.L. 1993 (10 O.S. Supp. 1993, Section 1104.2), is amended to read as follows:

Section 1104.2 A. Any person fourteen (14), fifteen (15), sixteen (16) or seventeen (17) years of age who is charged with

murder, kidnapping, robbery with a dangerous weapon, rape in the first degree, rape by instrumentation, use of firearm or other offensive weapon while committing a felony, arson in the first degree, burglary with explosives, burglary in the first or second degree after three or more adjudications for committing either burglary in the first degree or burglary in the second degree, shooting with intent to kill, discharging a firearm, crossbow or other weapon from a vehicle pursuant to subsection B of Section 652 of Title 21 of the Oklahoma Statutes, intimidating a witness, manslaughter in the first degree, nonconsensual sodomy, or manufacturing, distributing, dispensing, or possessing with intent to manufacture, distribute, or dispense a controlled dangerous substance, shall be considered as an adult. Upon the arrest and detention, such fourteen-, fifteen-, sixteen- or seventeen-year-old accused shall have all the statutory and constitutional rights and protections of an adult accused of a crime, but shall be detained in a jail cell or ward entirely separate from prisoners who are eighteen (18) years of age or over.

B. 1. Upon the filing of an information against such accused person, a warrant shall be issued which shall set forth the rights of the accused person, and the rights of the parents, guardian or next friend of the accused person to be present at the preliminary hearing, to have an attorney present and to make application for certification of such accused person as a child to the juvenile division of the district court. The warrant shall be personally served together with a certified copy of the information on the accused person and on a custodial parent, guardian or next friend of the accused person.

2. When personal service of a custodial parent, guardian or next friend of the accused person cannot be effected, service may be made by certified mail to such person's last-known address, requesting a return receipt from the addressee only. If delivery is

refused, notice may be given by mailing the warrant and a copy of the information on the accused person by regular first class mail to the address where the person to be notified refused delivery of the notice sent by certified mail. Where the address of a custodial parent, guardian or next friend is not known, or if the mailed warrant and copy of the information on the accused person is returned for any reason other than refusal of the addressee to accept delivery, after a distinct and meaningful search of all reasonably available sources to ascertain the whereabouts of a custodial parent, guardian or next friend has been conducted, the court may order that notice of the hearing be given by publication one time in a newspaper of general circulation in the county. In addition, the court may order other means of service of notice that the court deems advisable or in the interests of justice.

3. Before service by publication is ordered, the court shall conduct an inquiry to determine whether a distinct and meaningful search has been made of all reasonably available sources to ascertain the whereabouts of any party for whom notice by publication is sought.

C. The accused person shall file a motion for certification as a child before the start of the criminal preliminary hearing. Upon the filing of such motion, the complete juvenile record of the accused shall be made available to the district attorney and the accused person.

At the conclusion of the state's case at the criminal preliminary hearing, the accused person may offer evidence to support the motion for certification as a child.

The court shall rule on the certification motion of the accused person before ruling on whether to bind the accused over for trial. When ruling on the certification motion of the accused person, the court shall give consideration to the following guidelines, listed in order of importance:

1. Whether the alleged offense was committed in an aggressive, violent, premeditated or willful manner;

2. Whether the offense was against persons or property, greater weight being given for retaining the accused person within the adult criminal system for offenses against persons, especially if personal injury resulted;

3. The record and past history of the accused person, including previous contacts with law enforcement agencies and juvenile or criminal courts, prior periods of probation and commitments to juvenile institutions; and

4. The prospects for adequate protection of the public if the accused person is processed through the juvenile system.

The court, in its decision on the certification motion of the accused person, need not detail responses to each of the above considerations, but shall state that the court has considered each of the guidelines in reaching its decision.

D. Upon completion of the criminal preliminary hearing, if the accused person is certified as a child to the juvenile division of the district court, then all adult court records relative to the accused person and this charge shall be expunged and any mention of the accused person shall be removed from public record.

E. An order certifying a person as a child or denying the request for certification as a child pursuant to subsection D of this section shall be a final order, appealable when entered.

SECTION 2. AMENDATORY Section 1, Chapter 205, O.S.L. 1993 (10 O.S. Supp. 1993, Section 1104.3), is amended to read as follows:

Section 1104.3 Whenever a person fourteen (14), fifteen (15), sixteen (16) or seventeen (17) years of age, who has fled from another state, is taken into custody, that person shall be considered an adult only for the purposes of detention if:

1. The person has been charged with commission of an offense in the other state which is considered a felony in that state;

2. The person is certified as an adult in that state for the purpose of criminal prosecution for said felony or has reached the statutory age of majority in that state; and

3. The other state is seeking the return of the individual to its jurisdiction provided written or electronically transmitted confirmation is received within forty-eight (48) hours from the state seeking the return of the person.

SECTION 3. AMENDATORY 10 O.S. 1991, Section 1112, as amended by Section 7, Chapter 342, O.S.L. 1993 (10 O.S. Supp. 1993, Section 1112), is amended to read as follows:

Section 1112. A. Except as otherwise provided, a child who is charged with having violated any state statute or municipal ordinance other than those enumerated in Section 1104.2 of this title, shall not be tried in a criminal action but in a juvenile proceeding. If, during the pendency of a criminal or quasi-criminal charge against any person, it shall be ascertained that the person was a child at the time of committing the alleged offense, the district court or municipal court shall transfer the case, together with all the papers, documents and testimony connected therewith, to the juvenile division of the district court. The division making such transfer shall order the child to be taken forthwith to the place of detention designated by the juvenile division, to that division itself, or release such child to the custody of some suitable person to be brought before the juvenile division. However, nothing in this act shall be construed to prevent the exercise of concurrent jurisdiction by another division of the district court or by municipal courts in cases involving children wherein the child is charged with the violation of a state or municipal traffic law or ordinance.

B. Except as otherwise provided by law, if a child is charged with delinquency as a result of an offense which would be a felony if committed by an adult, the court on its own motion or at the request of the district attorney shall conduct a preliminary hearing to determine whether or not there is prosecutive merit to the complaint. If the court finds that prosecutive merit exists, it shall continue the hearing for a sufficient period of time to conduct an investigation and further hearing to determine the prospects for reasonable rehabilitation of the child if he should be found to have committed the alleged act or omission.

Consideration shall be given to:

1. The seriousness of the alleged offense to the community, and whether the alleged offense was committed in an aggressive, violent, premeditated or willful manner;

2. Whether the offense was against persons or property, greater weight being given to offenses against persons especially if personal injury resulted;

3. The sophistication and maturity of the juvenile and his capability of distinguishing right from wrong as determined by consideration of his psychological evaluation, home, environmental situation, emotional attitude and pattern of living;

4. The record and previous history of the juvenile, including previous contacts with community agencies, law enforcement agencies, schools, juvenile courts and other jurisdictions, prior periods of probation or prior commitments to juvenile institutions;

5. The prospects for adequate protection of the public and the likelihood of reasonable rehabilitation of the juvenile if he is found to have committed the alleged offense, by the use of procedures and facilities currently available to the juvenile court; and

6. Whether the offense occurred while the juvenile was escaping or in an escape status from an institution for delinquent children.

After such investigation and hearing, the court may in its discretion proceed with the juvenile proceeding, except as provided in this paragraph, or it shall state its reasons in writing and shall certify that such child shall be held accountable for his acts as if he were an adult and shall be held for proper criminal proceedings for the specific offense charged, by any other division of the court which would have trial jurisdiction of such offense if committed by an adult. The court shall be required to certify any child sixteen (16) or seventeen (17) years of age as an adult when the child has committed a violent felony offense, except when an order certifying the person as a child has been entered pursuant to proceedings under the provisions of Section 1104.2 of this title. The district attorney shall commence the criminal proceeding within thirty (30) days from the date of the certification of any child sixteen (16) or seventeen (17) years of age, unless stayed pending appeal. The juvenile proceeding shall not be dismissed until the criminal proceeding has commenced and if no criminal proceeding commences within thirty (30) days of the date of such certification, unless stayed pending appeal, the court shall proceed with the juvenile proceeding and the certification shall lapse.

If not included in the original summons, notice of a hearing to consider whether a child should be certified for trial as an adult shall be given to all persons who are required to be served with a summons at the commencement of a juvenile proceeding, but publication in a newspaper when the address of a person is unknown is not required. The purpose of the hearing shall be clearly stated in the notice.

C. Prior to the entry of any order of adjudication, any child in custody shall have the same right to be released upon bail as would an adult under the same circumstances. Subsequent to the entry of an order that a child stand trial as an adult, said child shall have all the statutory and constitutional rights and

protections of an adult accused of a crime but shall, while awaiting trial and for the duration of the trial, be detained in a jail cell or ward entirely separate from prisoners who are eighteen (18) years of age or over. Upon conviction, the juvenile may be incarcerated with the adult population. If, prior to the entry of any order of adjudication, the child becomes eighteen (18) years of age, the child may be detained in a county jail or released on bail. If a child is certified to stand trial as an adult, the court shall make every effort to avoid duplication of the adult preliminary hearing and the prosecutorial hearing in the juvenile certification process. The parties may jointly stipulate to the court that the record for the prosecutorial merit hearing in the juvenile proceeding be used for all or part of the preliminary hearing.

D. Any child who has been certified to stand trial as an adult pursuant to any certification procedure provided by law and is subsequently convicted of the alleged offense or against whom the imposition of judgment and sentencing has been deferred shall be tried as an adult in all subsequent criminal prosecutions, and shall not be subject to the jurisdiction of the juvenile court in any further proceedings.

E. An order either certifying a person as a child pursuant to subsection B of this section or denying such certification shall be a final order, appealable when entered, except as provided by this section.

SECTION 4. It being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage and approval.