

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 50th Legislature (2006)

SENATE BILL 1760

By: Riley

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to juveniles; amending 10 O.S. 2001, Sections 7306-1.1, 7306-2.2 and 7306-2.5, which relate to reverse certification and the Youthful Offender Act; modifying age for reverse certification for murder in the first degree; making murder in the first degree an adult offense for certain aged person; granting adult rights and protections for certain aged persons for murder in the first degree; making subsequent offenses adult offenses; modifying age for Youthful Offender Act for murder in the first degree; allowing certification as juvenile for certain persons; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 10 O.S. 2001, Section 7306-1.1, is amended to read as follows:

Section 7306-1.1 A. Any person sixteen (16) or seventeen (17) years of age who is charged with ~~murder~~, kidnapping, robbery with a dangerous weapon, robbery in the first degree if personal injury results, 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, sodomy, trafficking in illegal drugs, manufacturing, distributing, dispensing, or possessing with intent to manufacture, distribute, or dispense a

controlled dangerous substance, or assault and battery with a deadly weapon, shall be considered as an adult.

B. 1. Any person thirteen (13), or fourteen (14), ~~fifteen (15), sixteen (16), or seventeen (17)~~ years of age who is charged with murder in the first degree shall be considered as an adult, unless certified as a youthful offender or juvenile pursuant to the Youthful Offender Act or certified as a juvenile pursuant to this section.

2. Any person fifteen (15), sixteen (16) or seventeen (17) years of age who is charged with murder in the first degree shall be held accountable for his or her act as if the person was an adult and shall not be subject to the provisions of this section, the Youthful Offender Act or the provisions of the Juvenile Code for certification as a juvenile. The person shall have all the statutory rights and protections of an adult accused of a crime. All proceedings shall be as for a criminal action and the provisions of Title 22 of the Oklahoma Statutes shall apply. A person having been tried as an adult pursuant to this paragraph shall be tried as an adult for every subsequent offense.

C. Upon the arrest and detention, such accused person 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.

D. 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.

E. 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.

F. 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.

G. An order certifying a person as a child or denying the request for certification as a child shall be a final order, appealable when entered.

H. The provisions of this section shall apply only to offenses committed before January 1, 1998.

SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 10 O.S. 2001, Section 7306-2.2, is amended to read as follows:

Section 7306-2.2 A. For the purposes of the Youthful Offender Act:

1. "Youthful offender" means a person:

- a. thirteen (13), or fourteen (14), ~~fifteen (15), sixteen (16) or seventeen (17)~~ years of age who is charged with murder in the first degree and certified as a youthful offender as provided by Section 7306-2.5 of this title,
- b. fifteen (15), sixteen (16), or seventeen (17) years of age and charged with a crime listed in subsection A of Section 7306-2.6 of this title, and
- c. sixteen (16) or seventeen (17) years of age and charged with a crime listed in subsection B of Section 7306-2.6 of this title,

if the offense was committed on or after January 1, 1998; and

2. "Sentenced as a youthful offender" means the imposition of a court order making disposition of a youthful offender as provided by Section 7306-2.9 of this title which shall constitute an adult criminal sentence if the youthful offender is transferred to the custody or supervision of the Department of Corrections pursuant to paragraph 5 of subsection F of Section 7306-2.10 of this title.

B. It is the purpose of the Youthful Offender Act to better ensure the public safety by holding youths accountable for the commission of serious crimes, while affording courts methods of rehabilitation for those youths the courts determine, at their discretion, may be amenable to such methods. It is the further purpose of the Youthful Offender Act to allow those youthful offenders whom the courts find to be amenable to rehabilitation by

the methods prescribed in the Youthful Offender Act to be placed in the custody or under the supervision of the Office of Juvenile Affairs for the purpose of accessing the rehabilitative programs provided by that Office and thereby, upon good conduct and successful completion of such programs, avoid conviction for a crime.

SECTION 3. AMENDATORY 10 O.S. 2001, Section 7306-2.5, is amended to read as follows:

Section 7306-2.5 A. Any person thirteen (13), or fourteen (14), ~~fifteen (15), sixteen (16) or seventeen (17)~~ years of age who is charged with murder in the first degree shall be held accountable for his or her ~~acts~~ act as if he or she were an adult; provided, the person may be certified as a youthful offender or a juvenile as provided by this section, unless the person is subject to the provisions of subsection F of Section 7306-2.4 of this title, or the person may be subject to reverse certification pursuant to Section 7306.1 of this title.

B. 1. Upon the filing of an adult criminal 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 youthful offender to the district court for the purpose of prosecution as a youthful offender.

2. 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.

3. 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 thorough 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.

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

C. 1. The accused person shall file any motions for certification as a youthful offender or a juvenile before the start of the criminal preliminary hearing. If both a motion for certification as a youthful offender and a motion for certification as a juvenile are filed, they shall both be filed at the same time. No motion for certification as a youthful offender or certification as a juvenile may be filed after the time specified in this subsection. 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.

2. The court shall conduct a preliminary hearing within ninety (90) days of the charging of the accused person, pursuant to Section 258 of Title 22 of the Oklahoma Statutes, to determine whether the

crime was committed and whether there is probable cause to believe the accused person committed the crime.

3. At the conclusion of the state's case at the criminal preliminary hearing, the state and the accused person may offer evidence to support or oppose the motions for certification as a youthful offender or a juvenile.

D. The court shall rule on any motions for certification as a youthful offender or juvenile before ruling on whether to bind the accused over for trial. When ruling on a motion for certification as a youthful offender or juvenile, the court shall give consideration to the following guidelines:

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

2. Whether the offense was against persons, and, if personal injury resulted, the degree of personal injury;

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;

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

5. The prospects for adequate protection of the public if the accused person is processed through the youthful offender system or the juvenile system;

6. The likelihood of reasonable rehabilitation of the accused person if ~~he~~ such person is found to have committed the alleged offense, by the use of procedures and facilities currently available to the juvenile court; and

7. Whether the offense occurred while the accused person was escaping or on escape status from an institution for youthful offenders or delinquent children.

The court, in its decision on a motion for certification as a youthful offender or juvenile, shall detail findings of fact and conclusions of law to each of the above considerations, and shall state that the court has considered each of the guidelines in reaching its decision.

E. The order certifying a person as a youthful offender or a juvenile or denying the request for certification as either a youthful offender or a juvenile shall be a final order, appealable to the Court of Criminal Appeals when entered.

F. An order certifying the accused person as a youthful offender or juvenile shall not be reviewable by the trial court.

G. If the accused person is prosecuted as an adult and is subsequently convicted of the alleged offense or against whom the imposition of judgment and sentencing has been deferred, the person may be incarcerated with the adult population and shall be prosecuted as an adult in all subsequent criminal proceedings.

SECTION 4. This act shall become effective July 1, 2006.

SECTION 5. 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.

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