

Synopsis  
of Sentencing Commission Proposal  
on Juvenile Sentence Reconsideration

Three times in the past seven years the United States Supreme Court has held that, "because juveniles have lessened culpability, they are less deserving of the most severe punishments."

In one of those cases, *Graham v. Florida*, the Court held that the State must give a juvenile a "meaningful opportunity" to obtain release before serving the maximum term of the sentence imposed on the juvenile, "based on demonstrated maturity and rehabilitation." Because of the *Graham* decision, the Sentencing Commission recommended in its annual report of January 2012 that the legislature create a procedure whereby a person sentenced to a lengthy term of imprisonment would have a "meaningful opportunity", after service of a portion of the sentence, to obtain release by demonstrating maturity and rehabilitation.

At its meeting on December 20, 2012 the Commission will consider a draft proposal to allow a person sentenced to a lengthy term of imprisonment for a crime committed when the person was under 18 to seek release under parole supervision after serving a substantial portion of the sentence.

The Commission will hear public comments on the proposal at a public hearing at the Legislative Office Building in Hartford on November 29, 2012, beginning at 12:00 PM.