



NEW YORK

Recognizing the fundamental differences between adolescents and adults, as well as the public safety benefits of processing youth in the family court system, nearly every state in the country raises the age of automatic adult prosecution. New York remains one of only two states in the country that continues to automatically try all 16- and 17-year-olds as adults and incarcerate them in adult jails, including Rikers Island.

APRIL: Governor Cuomo creates Commission on Youth, Public Safety and Justice by Executive Order to develop a plan to raise the age of juvenile jurisdiction. Commission is made up of youth, families, law enforcement, service providers, and experts on adolescent development.

OCTOBER: Commission final report recommends raising the age of family court jurisdiction to 18 and ending the automatic prosecution of all 16- and 17-year-olds as adults.

APRIL: Raise the Age legislation is enacted and signed by Governor Cuomo, reflecting a bipartisan compromise between the Democratic Governor and Assembly Majority and the Republican Senate Majority:

- Phased in over two years
- 16- and 17-year-olds charged with misdemeanors —> family court
- 16- and 17-year-olds charged with felonies —> adult court (new youth parts).
- Most non-violent felony cases are transferred to family court.
- Violent felony cases involving display of a weapon, sex offenses, or significant physical injury remain in adult court ; otherwise, they may be transferred to Family Court unless court finds extraordinary circumstances.
- Full funding, under reimbursement model, for all counties except NYC, to develop continuum of supports for young people. NYC is ineligible for reimbursement under the tax cap provision without a waiver, which the City has not sought.

JANUARY:

- Politico reported that nearly \$1 billion earmarked for RTA still had not been disbursed across the state.
- A review of RTA county plans from the Top 10 counties in terms of juvenile arrests (other than NYC) shows that more than 80% of approved spending was for detention, placement, and law enforcement.
- In these counties, less than 20% of funds approved - sometimes as little as 10% - were for community based services and programs.
- Youth Justice Innovation Fund is introduced to address lack of programming and difficulty in accessing state funds, and to remove NYC ineligibility for state funding.

OCTOBER: RTA goes into full effect. applies to cases of all 16 and 17-year-olds.

FEBRUARY: Initial reporting identifies funds allocated for Raise the Age were not being disbursed to counties.

MARCH: Governor Hochul calls for rollbacks to RTA in her "Public Safety Package" and the legislature rejects.

OCTOBER: RTA goes into effect for 16-year-olds; all 16- and 17-year-olds moved off of Rikers Island.

PRE-2014

2014

2017

2018

2019

2022

2025

RAISE THE AGE TIMELINE