

Summary

States that Limit or Prohibit Juvenile Shackling and Solitary Confinement

Updated February 01, 2024 | Anne Teigen

Related Topic: [Civil and Criminal Justice](#)

State legislatures and courts across the country also are re-examining the practice of placing juveniles in solitary confinement and shackling youth during court appearances without first assessing each juvenile's individual behavior.

On Jan. 26, 2016, President Barack Obama announced a ban on solitary confinement for juvenile offenders in the federal prison system.

Solitary Confinement

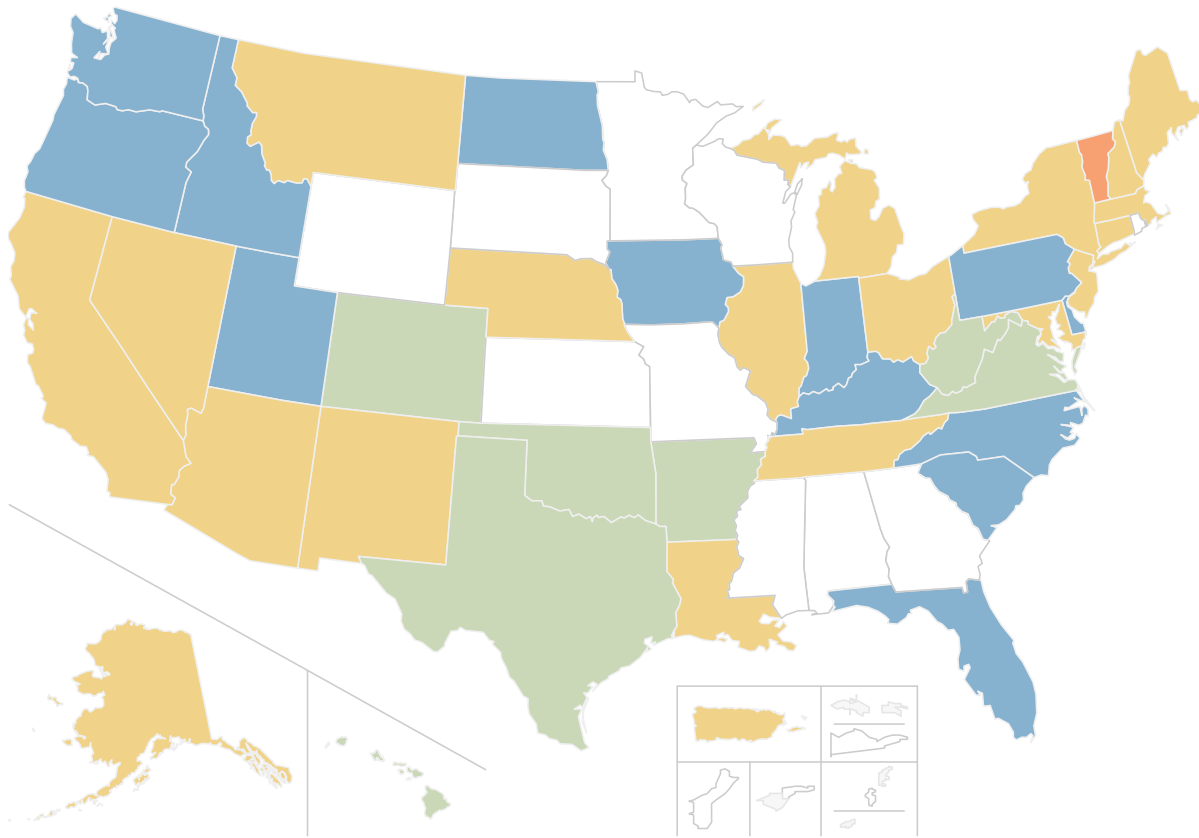
Solitary confinement, or “seclusion,” is the most extreme form of isolation in a detention setting and can include physical and social isolation in a cell for 22 to 24 hours per day. The [American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry](#) says solitary confinement of juveniles can lead to depression, anxiety and even psychosis. In recent years, seven states have passed laws that limit or prohibit the use of solitary confinement for youth in detention facilities. For example, Connecticut law states that no child at any time shall be held in solitary confinement, but “seclusion” may be used periodically if authorized and the young person is checked every thirty minutes. Twenty-four states and the District of Columbia have enacted statutes that limit or prohibit so solitary confinement while other states have limited its use through administrative code, policy or court rules.

Use of Shackles at Court Appearances

Laws, court decisions or rules in 33 states and the District of Columbia prohibit the use of unnecessary restraints, like shackles, at court appearances.

States with Laws Related to Solitary Confinement and Shackling Youths During Court Appearances

Note: Some states have limits or prohibitions in state administrative policy



- No limits or prohibitions in statute
- States that prohibit or limit solitary confinement
- States that prohibit or limit use of shackles
- Limits or prohibits both solitary confinement and use of shackles
- Vermont addresses shackling during transport but is silent on court appearances

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State Lawmakers Wade Into Third-Party Litigation Funding

In a world where it seems that just about everything is for sale these days, is it any wonder that there's a burgeoning market for investment in lawsuits? The practice, known as "third-party litigation funding" is a growing concern for insurers and other businesses, as well as state lawmakers.

Civil and Criminal Justice

State Legislatures News

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Juvenile Life Without Parole

The Supreme Court in 2012 abolished mandatory life sentences without the possibility of parole in *Miller v. Alabama*. 28 states had mandatory juvenile life without parole sentences that were in conflict with the Supreme Court ruling.

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Map

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Juvenile Justice Legislation Database

Up to date, real time information about juvenile justice legislation that has been introduced or enacted in the 50 states and the District of Columbia.

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Database