

Honorable Judges Paul Reilly, Lisa Stark, and Lisa Neubauer:

I am contacting you in regard to your review of the case of Morgan Geysler, whose reverse waiver hearing was denied by Judge Michael Bohren in Waukesha County. I am strongly opposed to Morgan being tried in adult court, and request that you overturn the decision so her case can be heard in juvenile court. Because Morgan was only 12 at the time of her crimes, I believe her age, as well as her diagnosis of severe mental illness, needs to be taken into account when considering her case.

It's my understanding that juvenile court exists because of the notion that it is not rational to try to understand a 12-year old's actions the way you would try to understand an adult's actions. Developmental science has shown for quite some time that the parts of our brain that control planning, reasoning, understanding the consequences of our behavior, and many other higher-order functions, do not finish developing until we are in our 20's. This is especially true if that 12-year old is suffering from delusions as a result of an undiagnosed psychotic disease. I do not believe that ignoring these factors can result in a truly just outcome.

It is also my understanding that if Morgan is tried as a juvenile, she could have access to help from a social worker and other resources available to juveniles. I believe that with the help of those resources, Morgan could be ready to emerge as a whole, healthy, contributing member of society as a young adult. In fact, referring again to the study of brain development, adolescence is a particularly *hopeful* time in terms of recovery. The brain of a child is malleable and incredibly flexible; it holds endless potential. There can be a very promising future for Morgan. By helping Morgan, you would not be negating or disrespecting the victim of her actions, but you would be allowing a child a chance at a future.

In your position as appellate judges and representatives of our country's justice system, you have the power to make a decision in this renowned case that will have reverberating consequences. Those of us concerned with social justice and human rights would like to count you as our allies in the effort to re-define "justice"; justice that looks beyond surface-level retribution and includes the restoration of well-being for all who have been harmed (including the offender).

Thank you for your consideration,