

# LGBTQ Youth in the Juvenile Justice System

## **Barriers: Home and Life**

- Mental Health Concerns
- Violence and Victimization
- Being Kicked Out of Home
- Dropping Out of School
- Engaging in Risky Behaviors or Survival Crimes
- Social Isolation
- Suicide

## **Barriers: Trial & Defense**

- Encouraging Indigent Youth to Waive Their Right to Counsel
- Internal Bias
- Awareness of How LGBTQ Identity Affects Charges and Processing
- Arguing Against Client's Best Interests Due to Personal Bias
- Lack of Family Support
- Charges Based on Bias
- Profiling & Misperception

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## Barriers: Juvenile Justice System

- Lack of Appropriate Alternatives to Detention that are LGBTQ Accepting/Understanding
  - Lack of Diversion Options
  - Lack of Disposition Programs
  - Lack of Appropriate Out of Home Placement
- Lack of Informed Mental Health Professionals/Evaluations
- Lack of Informed Family Counselors
- Inappropriate Application of Pre-Trial Detention

## Barriers: Incarceration

- Staff & Facility
- Bias Displayed on Intake Forms
- Abuse
  - Sexual & Physical
  - Mental
- Trans\* Bias
  - Denying Access to Proper Healthcare
- Housing and Classification
  - Being labeled as sex offenders or sexual predators
- Policing and Punishing