

# In the State of California A 14 Year Old Child...

## CAN NOT:

## CAN:



**Drink or Smoke**



**Drive**



**Vote**



**Watch Certain Movies**



**Join the Army**



**Be Sentenced as an  
Adult to Life in Prison**

- The U.S. stands alone in the world as the only country that sentences youth to prison for life without the possibility of parole
- In the U.S. every year, roughly 200,000 youth under age 18 are tried in adult courts
- Brain research shows that adolescents behave differently than adults because their minds operate differently, their emotions are more volatile, and their brains are anatomically immature
- Youth convicted in the adult system receive little or no rehabilitative programming, which is mandated in the juvenile system. Upon their release from prison, they cannot as easily expunge their criminal record, which affects their future opportunities in education, housing and employment.
- Both the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have analyzed the body of research and concluded that prosecuting youth as if they were adults harms community safety because it substantially increases recidivism.