

# POV

Community  
Engagement & Education

DISCUSSION GUIDE

## **15 to Life: Kenneth's Story**

A Film by Nadine Pequeneza



[www.pbs.org/pov](http://www.pbs.org/pov)

Few people would question whether 13- and 14-year-olds need guidance. Parents especially recognize that children are easily influenced, that they can be impulsive and that empathy and cruelty are both learned behaviors. Given that we know these things about children, I was shocked to learn that kids as young as 12 years old are being sentenced to die in prison.

As I began to research juvenile sentences of life without parole, reading articles, reports and studies from individuals and groups on both sides of this argument, the essence of the debate presented itself in the form of a few very fundamental questions, the answers to which have significant ramifications for our society. When children commit crimes, should rehabilitation take precedence over punishment? Can a child be ruled to be an adult, based on a single action? Can children who commit violent acts be rehabilitated? By focusing on the case of a child who committed multiple armed robberies at the age of 14 and 15, I set out to answer these questions.

Invariably when you're filming, people stop and ask what you're doing. Each time that happened with this film, I told the questioner that we were making a documentary about kids who get sentenced to life in prison. The reaction was always the same: "Children? How old? In the United States?" This last question typically ended with a disbelieving headshake when I explained that other than Somalia, the United States is the only country in the world that sentences children to die in prison. Yet despite this common public disapproval of life sentences for children, I have found strong support for it among many prosecutors, judges and legislators. Why?

I believe that, as a society, we've become engrossed in the sordid details of youth crimes. Every day we're bombarded with stories of delinquent youth. We've labeled our children "super predators." And we watch television shows like *Killer Kids*. Victims' rights groups have become the most vocal lobbyists opposing juvenile sentencing reform, even though not all victims think alike. I wanted to tell a different story, one that shattered stereotypes and put a child's face on the issue. By focusing on one case, that of Kenneth Young, I wanted to show the complicated nature of his relationship with his mother, the absence of social safety nets to help Kenneth and young people like him, and the injustice that is inherent in trying children as adults.

Since the 2010 *Graham v. Florida* decision, which ruled that life sentences for juveniles convicted of crimes other than murder were unconstitutional, some 80 child offenders have been resentenced. Typically those who have been released have been in their early 40s and have already served significant parts of their sentences. But younger inmates have often been resentenced to multi-decade prison terms, or virtual life sentences, the longest being 110 years. In some states, these virtual life sentences have been overturned by higher courts.

Across the country, courts and legislatures are grappling with how to interpret recent U.S. Supreme Court decisions, including *Miller v. Alabama*, which banned mandatory life sentences without parole for juveniles in 2012. Two years after the *Miller* decision, six states have banned juvenile life without parole and five states have significantly restricted its use.

America's juvenile justice system is at a crossroads. What happens over the next few years will determine whether we continue down a road of retribution or return to the ideal of rehabilitation on which the juvenile justice system was founded. My hope is that Kenneth Young's voice will add a vital perspective that is often missing in this discussion.



**Filmmaker Nadine Pequenezza.**

Photo courtesy of Richard Lie

### Nadine Pequenezza

Director, **15 to Life: Kenneth's Story**



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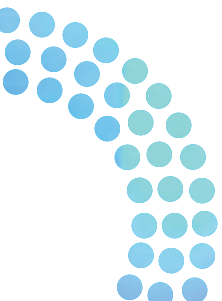
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**Kenneth Young and his lawyers,  
Paolo Annino and Corinne Koeppen.**

Photo courtesy of HitPlay Productions

**15 to Life: Kenneth's Story** (60 min.) tells the story of Kenneth Young who, at the age of 15, was convicted of a series of armed robberies and given four consecutive life sentences without parole. Despite the fact that this was his first offense and a non-homicidal crime, Young's sentence was longer than that given to the 24-year-old who committed the robberies with him. His adult accomplice was given a single life sentence.

A 2010 U.S. Supreme Court ruling (*Graham v. Florida*) declared that life sentences for juveniles convicted of non-homicide crimes were unconstitutional, giving Young and other inmates across the country the possibility for release. The film follows Young's resentencing hearing and fight for release after more than 10 years of incarceration.

Kenneth Young's story asks viewers to examine who benefits from sentencing juveniles to life without parole. How is the public interest served or undermined by trying juveniles as adults? What provokes the labeling of these teens as "super predators" and why are the majority of them boys of color? What has led to a system that is more punitive than rehabilitative, especially for our society's youngest offenders, and what does our approach to juvenile justice reveal about our values?



**15 to Life: Kenneth's Story** is well suited for use in a variety of settings and is especially recommended for use with:

- Your local PBS station
- Groups that have discussed previous PBS and POV films relating to youth, criminal justice or incarceration, including *Give Up Tomorrow*, *Presumed Guilty*, *Herman's House*, *Better This World*, *Prison Town*, *USA* and *What I Want My Words to Do to You*.
- Groups focused on any of the issues listed in the Key Issues section
- High school students, youth groups and clubs
- Faith-based organizations and institutions
- Groups engaged in intergenerational dialogue
- Cultural, art and historical organizations, institutions and museums
- Civic, fraternal and community groups
- Academic departments and student groups at colleges, universities and high schools
- Community organizations with a mission to promote education and learning, such as local libraries
- Groups that work with at risk youth, including counselors and police and probation officers

**15 to Life: Kenneth's Story** is an excellent tool for outreach and will be of special interest to people looking to explore the following topics:

- crime prevention
- criminal justice
- Florida politics
- government policy
- human rights
- justice system
- juvenile justice
- law
- prison industrial complex
- racial disparity in sentencing
- racism
- rehabilitation
- school to prison pipeline
- sentencing
- social justice
- Supreme Court cases
- youth

## USING THIS GUIDE

This guide is an invitation to dialogue. It is based on a belief in the power of human connection, designed for people who want to use **15 to Life: Kenneth's Story** to engage family, friends, classmates, colleagues and communities. In contrast to initiatives that foster debates in which participants try to convince others that they are right, this document envisions conversations undertaken in a spirit of openness in which people try to understand one another and expand their thinking by sharing viewpoints and listening actively.

The discussion prompts are intentionally crafted to help a wide range of audiences think more deeply about the issues in the film. Rather than attempting to address them all, choose one or two that best meet your needs and interests. And be sure to leave time to consider taking action. Planning next steps can help people leave the room feeling energized and optimistic, even in instances when conversations have been difficult.

For more detailed event planning and facilitation tips, visit [www.pov.org/engage](http://www.pov.org/engage)



Footage from a security camera.  
Photo courtesy of HitPlay Productions

### Kenneth Young's Case

In June 2000, 14-year-old Kenneth Young and 24-year-old Jacques Bethea, a neighborhood crack dealer and Young's mother's supplier, committed a series of armed robberies in Tampa, Florida. Bethea brandished the pistol and on one occasion was talked out of raping one of the victims by his younger partner. Fortunately, no one was killed or seriously injured during the crimes.

At 15, Young was tried under Florida law as an adult and received four consecutive life sentences without the possibility of parole. By 2006, all of Young's appeals had been denied. In 2009, his last hope for clemency from the governor's office was also denied. Then, in 2010, the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling in *Graham v. Florida* declared it unconstitutional to sentence a juvenile to life in prison without the possibility of parole in the case of non-homicidal crimes. This ruling vacated Young's life-without-parole sentences. At his 2011 re-sentencing hearing at the age of 26, Young was sentenced to four concurrent 30-year terms, followed by 10 years of probation. Kenneth Young is set for re-

lease in 2030 and continues to seek a reduced sentence that acknowledges his rehabilitation.

#### Sources:

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Kenneth Ray Young, Appellant vs. State of Florida, Appellee. [http://law.fsu.edu/academic\\_programs/jd\\_program/cac/document/kenethyounginitialbrief.pdf](http://law.fsu.edu/academic_programs/jd_program/cac/document/kenethyounginitialbrief.pdf)



Statue outside Second District Court in Tampa, Florida.

Photo courtesy of HitPlay Productions

## The History of the Juvenile Justice System

The juvenile justice system in the United States was built on the idea that an individual's ability to understand right and wrong, as well as the consequences of his or her decisions, is not completely formed until adulthood, when psychological and physiological capacities are fully developed. The first juvenile court in the United States was established in 1899 in Cook County, Illinois, as a less punitive and more rehabilitative alternative for youth. Within 30 years, nearly every state in the United States had created a similar system under which the state would be expected to follow the doctrine of *parens patriae*, or "state as parent," meaning that disciplinary measures should reform an individual in a way that would deter him or her from future criminal involvement. Juvenile courts are "civil" in nature, meaning that attention is focused on the individual who committed the crime; this differentiates the system from the "criminal" nature of the adult justice system, which focuses more on the crimes themselves.

In 1974, the U.S. Congress enacted the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act, which provides funding to states to carry out federal protections regarding the care and treatment of youth in the juvenile justice system.

### Sources:

Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.  
<http://www.ojjdp.gov/about/legislation.html>



## Trial as an Adult

The juvenile justice system does not allow youth to be sentenced to life without parole. In order for a juvenile to receive a life sentence, his or her case must first be transferred to an adult criminal court. Every state allows for this transfer, but the age at which an individual is considered an adult is dependent on location and circumstances. From 1985 to 1994, when politicians were using slogans such as “adult time for adult crime,” the number of juvenile cases transferred to adult criminal courts nearly doubled, from 7,200 to 13,200 cases. In 2007, nearly 14,000 juvenile cases were reported to be transferred to adult criminal court. However, this total includes only cases in the 13 states that publicly report their transfers—29 additional states also transfer youth cases to adult criminal court every year. The actual number of cases transferred is estimated to be around 250,000. Kenneth Young’s state, Florida, has the highest number of juveniles tried as adults and in a five-year period leading up to 2014, 60 percent of the juveniles in the state who were transferred to adult criminal court were charged with non-violent offenses.

### A child appearing in Pinellas County juvenile court.

Photo courtesy of HitPlay Productions

#### Sources:

Human Rights Watch. “Branded for Life: Florida’s Prosecution of Children as Adults Under its ‘Direct File’ Statute.”  
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The Sentencing Project. “Life Goes On: The Historic Rise in Life Sentences in America.”  
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U.S. Department of Justice. “Trying Juveniles as Adults: An Analysis of State Transfer Laws and Reporting.”  
<https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/ojdp/232434.pdf>

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<http://static.nicic.gov/Library/025555.pdf>





**Kenneth and the prosecuting attorney.**

Photo courtesy of HitPlay Productions

## Life Without Parole for Juveniles

Sentencing a juvenile to life without parole is a relatively recent practice in the United States, and it almost never happened before the 1980s. Because there is no national database tracking youth serving adult sentences and the age at which an individual is considered an adult varies by state, the exact number of youth serving life without parole is not known. However, a study published in 2013 by the Sentencing Project estimates that more than 2,500 juvenile inmates are currently serving life without parole sentences, and 7,862 total inmates are serving life sentences with the possibility of parole for crimes committed before 18 years of age.

The Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Act and the Prison Rape Elimination Act were established to provide regulations and protection for juvenile offenders and convicted youth who are tried as adults. Among other things, these dictate that youth may not be housed with adult inmates and when they are in common spaces they must either be kept from seeing and communicating with the adult inmates or have direct staff supervision while with adult inmates. As a result, however, juvenile inmates may be placed in isolation, or solitary confinement, as a safety measure. According to the American

Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, “The potential psychiatric consequences of prolonged solitary confinement are well recognized and include depression, anxiety and psychosis.” Additionally, many educational and reform programs for incarcerated youth face decreased funding, and more than 60 percent of juveniles with life sentences who responded to a survey taken in 2012 reported that they did not have access to these programs.

### Sources:

National PREA Resource Center. “Youthful Inmates.”  
<http://www.prearesourcecenter.org/node/1067>

The Sentencing Project. “Life Goes On: The Historic Rise in Life Sentences in America.”  
[http://sentencingproject.org/doc/publications/inc\\_Life%20Goes%20On%202013.pdf](http://sentencingproject.org/doc/publications/inc_Life%20Goes%20On%202013.pdf)

The Sentencing Project. “The Lives of Juvenile Lifers: Findings from a National Survey.”  
[http://sentencingproject.org/doc/publications/jj\\_The\\_Lives\\_of\\_Juvenile\\_Lifers.pdf](http://sentencingproject.org/doc/publications/jj_The_Lives_of_Juvenile_Lifers.pdf)

## Major Supreme Court Cases

Since 2005, three major Supreme Court cases have altered the sentencing of juvenile offenders in the United States:

### **Roper v. Simmons Decision (2005)**

In the 2005 *Roper v. Simmons* case, the Supreme Court ruled it unconstitutional for a youth under 18 years old at the time of his or her crime to receive a death penalty sentence. This reversed the 1989 *Stanford v. Kentucky* ruling, which allowed youth who were at least 16 years or older at the time of their crimes to receive death penalty sentences.

### **Graham v. Florida Decision (2010)**

In 2010, the Supreme Court ruled in the case of *Graham v. Florida* that sentencing a juvenile to life without the possibility of parole for a non-homicidal crime is in violation of the Eighth Amendment. The ruling requires that states give juveniles a “meaningful opportunity to obtain release based on demonstrated maturity and rehabilitation.”

In the United States, 37 states and the District of Columbia still allow a juvenile to be sentenced to life for committing a non-homicidal crime. A law passed by the Florida Senate in 2014 states that a juvenile convicted of murder may only be sentenced to life in prison after a mandatory hearing at which his or her age and circumstances are considered. The law also provides the opportunity for judicial hearings to review the sentences of juvenile offenders.

### **Miller v. Alabama Decision (2012)**

The 2012 *Miller v. Alabama* ruling made it unconstitutional to sentence someone who was under the age of 18 at the time of the crime to mandatory life without parole. The ruling requires a judge to take into consideration the age of the offender before sentencing him or her to life without parole.

## Sources:

American Psychological Association. “*Roper v. Simmons*.” <http://www.apa.org/about/offices/ogc/amicus/roper.aspx>

The Florida Senate. “CS/HB 7035 – Juvenile Sentencing.” <http://www.flsenate.gov/Committees/BillSummaries/2014/html/635>

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Supreme Court of the United States. Terrance Jamar Graham, *Petitioner v. Florida*.

[http://www.judiciary.state.nj.us/mcs/case\\_law/graham\\_v\\_florida.pdf](http://www.judiciary.state.nj.us/mcs/case_law/graham_v_florida.pdf)

**Selected People Featured in 15 to Life: Kenneth's Story**



**Kenneth Young**, the central figure in the film, was convicted for his role in a series of armed robberies committed when he was 14 and 15 years old. He is 26 at the time of filming and is now serving the remainder of his sentence in a Florida prison.



**Stephanie Young**, Kenneth Young's mother and a recovering drug addict, was addicted to crack for 19 years, including much of Kenneth's childhood.



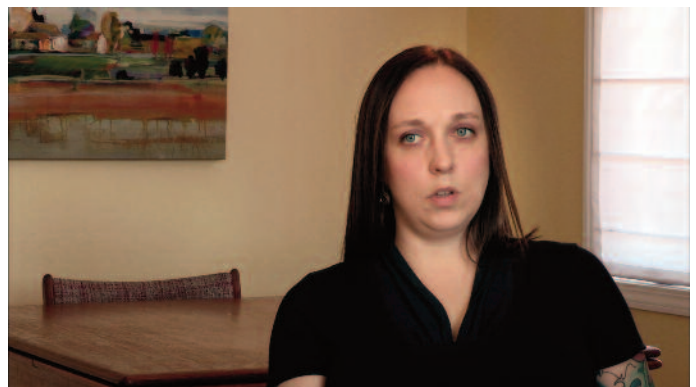
**Paolo Annino**, Kenneth Young's lead attorney, is also the head of Florida State University's Children in Prison Project and a co-director of the Public Interest Law Center in Tallahassee.



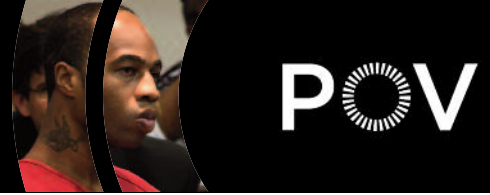
**Corinne Koeppen** is second chair for Young's defense and a trainee at the Public Interest Law Center.



**Sandra Christopher** is a robbery victim who testifies at Young's appeal.



**Jennifer Norman** is a robbery victim who forgave Young.



Immediately after the film, you may want to give people a few quiet moments to reflect on what they have seen or pose a general question (examples below) and give people some time to themselves to jot down or think about their answers before opening the discussion:

- If you could ask anyone in the film a single question, who would it be and what would you want to know?
- What did you learn from this film? What insights did it provide?
- If a friend asked you what this film was about, what would you say?
- Describe a moment or scene in the film that you found particularly disturbing or moving. What was it about that scene that was especially compelling for you?

ATLANTA FILM FESTIVAL OFFICIAL SELECTION 2014

OFFICIAL SELECTION FLORIDA FILM FESTIVAL 2014

# 15 TO LIFE **Kenneth's Story**

Every child deserves a second chance

HITPLAY PRODUCTIONS presents 15 TO LIFE a film by NADINE PEQUENEZA  
 produced in association with AMERICAN DOCUMENTARY / POV  
 director of photography STEFAN RANDSTROM location sound PAUL ADLAF  
 music by ALEX KHASKIN and STAN FOMIN edited by RICARDO ACOSTA  
 commissioning editors for American Documentary SIMON KILMURRY and CYNTHIA LOPEZ  
 directed, written and produced by NADINE PEQUENEZA

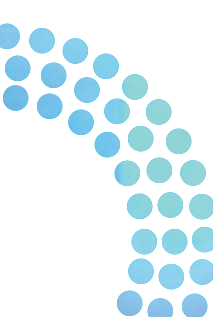
Produced with the participation of The Canadian Film or Video Production Tax Credit  
 Ontario Media Development Corporation Film and Television Tax Credits

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**Kenneth being escorted in prison.**

Photo courtesy of HitPlay Productions

## General Policy

In light of what you see in the film, in what ways do you think these current policies serve the public interest:

- trying juveniles as adults
- sentencing juveniles to life without possibility of parole
- incarcerating youth in adult facilities
- placing juveniles in solitary confinement because adult prisons have no other way to protect them from older inmates
- denying juveniles serving life sentences access to educational opportunities because they are deemed a waste of resources for people who will never be released

George Steffen wonders “if Kenneth Young knew the consequences at the time,” because he believes that “at that age they really don’t.” Randy Otto testifies that adolescents are different from adults in terms of “their susceptibility to persuasion and their ability to be led by others,” as well as their ability to understand others’ perspectives. What has your experience with teenagers been? What

distinguishes teens from adults? In your view, should these distinctions preclude the possibility of trying youth as adults? Should they preclude us from using the same criminal penalties for youth as adults? Why or why not?

List all the ways you can think of that U.S. law distinguishes between adults and minors (e.g., needing to be 18 or older to sign a lease or join the military or purchase alcohol)? Given all the distinctions on your list, why do you think we are more willing to treat youth the same as adults when it comes to criminal justice issues?

Imagine that Kenneth Young had been tried and convicted as a juvenile. What should we do with youth who commit serious crimes? How should developmental factors be considered when determining ways to hold accountable youth who have been convicted of serious crimes?



**Kenneth Young's neighborhood in North Tampa,  
known as Suitcase City.**

Photo courtesy of HitPlay Productions

Kenneth Young's original sentence (four consecutive life sentences) is actually longer than the sentence received by Jacques Bethea (one life sentence), who was an adult at the time of the crimes. Former public defender Patricia Moore even implies that Young would have been offered a plea deal (and much lighter sentence) if he had been tried in a different county. Is it possible for a justice system to be effective when outcomes differ so dramatically county by county? What changes would you recommend that would make sentencing more fair and equitable?

### Contributing Factors

Consider these statistics from the film:

- The United States is the only country in the world that sentences juveniles to life in prison without the possibility of parole.
- In 2010 the U.S. Supreme Court ruled juvenile life sentences illegal for crimes less than murder. Of the more than 2,500 inmates sentenced to life as juveniles, 128 now have a chance to obtain release. 77 are in Florida.

- 70 percent of juveniles serving life committed their crimes with adults.
- African-American youth are sentenced to life without parole 10 times more often than their white peers.

If you were investigating America's core values regarding youth and childhood, what would you conclude from this evidence?

Kenneth Young describes his childhood: "I stayed in like a low income area . . . You know, so drug dealing, robberies occurred, all types of the stuff. Just low income area, everybody trying to, like, do what they do. Sometimes my mama would lock me and my sister in a room and she just be gone. I'd be on my bicycle and I already know like nine times out of 10 where she'd be at, getting high, because in my neighborhood you have certain apartments, certain houses that people go to get high." What kinds of pressures does this



**Stephanie Young testifying in court.**

Photo courtesy of HitPlay Productions

type of environment place on young adults and how should those pressures factor into sentencing recommendations?

Commenting on the fact that Young received a longer sentence than Bethea, attorney Paolo Annino points out, “Juv-eniles many times are being punished much harsher than adults.” Why do you think this might be?

Attorney and activist Bryan Stevenson says, “It’s heart-breaking to me the way we have gotten comfortable demonizing children. Mostly kids of color. We don’t feel in any way socially constrained or morally constrained.” Have you seen examples of what Stevenson describes? What are the sources of the fear and hostility that produce labels like “super predator” for Young and others like him? Who benefits from labeling teens as predators and incarcerating them?

Attorney Paolo Annino notes that Florida was “the leader in lynching in the United States per population . . . so [in Florida’s juvenile justice system] it’s not a coincidence or an accident that the vast majority of these kids who received life without parole sentences were African-American kids.” What is Annino’s point about the link between lynching and life sentences for African-American

youth? In your view, what role does racism play in current policies and practices governing the adjudication of juveniles?

Bryan Stevenson sees current policies as the outgrowth of “a country that has been corrupted by the politics of fear and anger, where everybody wants to be tough on crime and everybody’s afraid to be seen as sympathetic, compassionate, merciful to people who have committed violent acts.” What do you imagine the criminal justice system would look like if political leaders valued sympathy, compassion and mercy over being viewed as tough on crime? Why don’t they?

Stevenson also observes that the youngsters who have been sentenced to die in prison “are some of the most victimized people in our society . . . the kids who have suffered physical abuse, and sexual abuse, and neglect, and torture, and mistreatment . . . And no one has done anything.” Why don’t



### The prosecutor presenting evidence.

Photo courtesy of HitPlay Productions

we treat these youth as crime victims and not just as perpetrators? If we did acknowledge the crimes committed against juvenile offenders, would life in prison still make sense as an option? What other options do you think might be appropriate?

What might accountability for neglectful or abusive parents, for bullies, or for others who increase the likelihood that a child will commit a crime look like? What would healing or reconciliation look like?

### The Sentence

Paolo Annino argues that there is no point keeping Kenneth Young in prison because it is clear that he has been rehabilitated. The judge agrees that Young has been rehabilitated, but does not release him. What does the judge see as “the point” of continued incarceration? What do you see as “the point”? In your view, what is the primary purpose of incarceration? In Kenneth Young’s case, does the system achieve that purpose?

Attorney Corinne Koeppen explains that Young’s role in his crimes was different than the role played by Bethea, an adult with an extensive criminal history and, by almost all accounts, the main aggressor and the only one who brandished a gun. Why do details of the crimes matter in Young’s re-sentencing?

Young’s attorneys note that the teenager committed his crime with an adult. Why might this aspect of the crime be significant for the court?

One of Young’s victims says that she isn’t ready for Young to be back on the streets. In your view, what role should victims’ wishes play in sentencing?

The judge cites Young’s good behavior and efforts to improve himself as evidence that prison has been good for him. What do you think?





**Kenneth Young during his interview.**

Photo courtesy of HitPlay Productions

Attorney Bryan Stevenson says, “I believe that every person is more than their worst act. Somebody tells a lie, they’re not just a liar. If they take something that doesn’t belong to them, they are not just a thief. Even [if] you kill somebody, you’re not just a killer. We don’t punish crimes, we punish people. So what’s a just punishment?” How would you answer him?

Kenneth Young is fighting for a second chance. If you were the judge in his case, would you give him that chance by releasing him? Why or why not? What evidence would you use to justify your decision?

Since the court represents us—“the people”—what does its sentencing of Kenneth Young say about us and our values?

### Glimpses of Hope

In explaining who he is today, Young says, “The condition of your mind creates the condition of your ways.” What do you think he means? How does this personal philosophy help him cope?

Former public defender and current juvenile court judge Patricia Moore observes, “It is difficult to give a child hope when they don’t see any hope around them.” She tries to give hope to defendants in her court by sharing her own story of struggle: “What I try to get them to do is to remember we don’t get to choose our family members, but we can choose the actions that we take. The cycle can be broken. Why not start breaking the cycle with you?” What would you do or say to give hope to incarcerated youth?

**Additional media literacy questions are available at:**  
[www.pbs.org/pov/educators/media-literacy.php](http://www.pbs.org/pov/educators/media-literacy.php)



Stephanie Young in church.

Photo courtesy of HitPlay Productions

## Taking Action

- Only a few states currently ban life without parole sentences for juveniles, though many more are considering bans. Check the link under the “Get Involved” tab on the film’s website (<http://15tolifethefilm.com/legislative-reform/>) to see what the status of juvenile sentencing law is in your state and plan actions based on what you find.
- Crime victim Jennifer Norman wrote to Kenneth Young to let him know who she was and how his crime affected her life. Facilitate projects that help victims tell their stories, help young inmates understand the impact of their crimes and facilitate healing for everyone involved.
- Follow up viewing with a study circle initiative in which small groups meet to read (or view) and discuss texts on racism and the American criminal justice system. The study circles might kick off their efforts by reading Michelle Alexander’s *The New Jim Crow*. Consider creating an event where smaller study circles can come together to share what they have learned and brainstorm actions they might take in response.
- Get involved with re-entry programs specifically designed for young people returning to your community after serving time in jail or prison.

**15 TO LIFE****[www.15tolifethefilm.com](http://www.15tolifethefilm.com)**

The film website offers a number of resources, including additional information about people in the film, timelines, state-by-state information on juvenile sentencing, status of related legislation, suggestions for action and links to news reports.

**Original Online Content on POV**

To enhance the broadcast, POV has produced an interactive website to enable viewers to explore the film in greater depth. The **15 to Life: Kenneth's Story** website—[www.pbs.org/pov/15tolife](http://www.pbs.org/pov/15tolife)—offers a streaming video trailer for the film; an interview with the filmmaker, a list of related websites, articles and books; a downloadable discussion guide; and special features.

**What's Your POV?**

Share your thoughts about **15 to Life: Kenneth's Story** by posting a comment at [www.pbs.org/pov/15tolife](http://www.pbs.org/pov/15tolife)

**THE CAMPAIGN FOR THE FAIR SENTENCING OF YOUTH**  
**[www.fairsentencingofyouth.org](http://www.fairsentencingofyouth.org)**

This group's website is a clearinghouse of information and advocacy efforts related to fair and age-appropriate sentencing.

**THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME:**  
**"COMMON GROUND: WHAT CRIME VICTIMS NEED**  
**FROM THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM"**  
**<http://www.victimsofcrime.org/docs/casey-foundation-roundtable/common-ground-what-victims-expect-from-jvenile-justice.pdf>**

This report offers guidelines for the juvenile justice system.

**OFFICE OF JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION****<http://www.ojjdp.gov/>**

This government website offers information, statistics and resources on the juvenile justice system.

**OFFICE FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME (OVC)****<http://www.ovc.gov/>**

This government website provides resources and support services for victims of crimes.

## HOW TO BUY THE FILM

To order **15 to Life** for educational use, visit <http://outcast-films.com/15tolifekennethsstory/>.

For information on how to rent or purchase **15 to Life** for home use, visit <http://15tolifethefilm.com/see-the-film>



Produced by American Documentary, Inc. and beginning its 27th season on PBS in 2014, the award-winning POV series is the longest-running showcase on American television to feature the work of today's best independent documentary filmmakers. Airing June through September with primetime specials during the year, POV has brought more than 365 acclaimed documentaries to millions nationwide. POV films have won every major film and broadcasting award, including 32 Emmys, 15 George Foster Peabody Awards, 10 Alfred I. DuPont-Columbia University Awards, three Academy Awards and the Prix Italia. Since 1988, POV has pioneered the art of presentation and outreach using independent nonfiction media to build new communities in conversation about today's most pressing social issues. Visit [www.pbs.org/pov](http://www.pbs.org/pov).

### POV Digital [www.pbs.org/pov](http://www.pbs.org/pov)

POV's award-winning website extends the life of our films online with interactive features, interviews, updates, video and educational content, as well as listings for television broadcasts, community screenings and films available online. The POV Blog is a gathering place for documentary fans and filmmakers to discuss their favorite films and get the latest news.

### POV Community Engagement and Education

POV's Community Engagement and Education team works with educators, community organizations and Public Media stations to present more than 650 free screenings every year. In addition, we produce and distribute free discussion guides and curriculum-based lesson plans for each of our films. With our community partners, we inspire dialogue around the most important social issues of our time.

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### American Documentary, Inc. [www.amdoc.org](http://www.amdoc.org)

American Documentary, Inc. (AmDoc) is a multimedia company dedicated to creating, identifying, and presenting contemporary stories that express opinions and perspectives rarely featured in mainstream-media outlets. AmDoc is a catalyst for public culture, developing collaborative strategic-engagement activities around socially relevant content on television, online, and in community settings. These activities are designed to trigger action, from dialogue and feedback to educational opportunities and community participation.

### You can follow us on Twitter @POVengage

for the latest news from  
POV Community Engagement & Education.



Front cover: Kenneth Young at his resentencing hearing, with his mother and niece in the background.

Photo courtesy of HitPlay Productions

