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Director

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DIRECTIVE NO. 2005-4

**TO: DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE
ALL COUNTY PROSECUTORS
ALL POLICE CHIEFS
ALL LAW ENFORCEMENT CHIEF EXECUTIVES**

FROM: PETER C. HARVEY, ATTORNEY GENERAL

DATE: DECEMBER 7, 2005

**SUBJECT: ATTORNEY GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR STATIONHOUSE
ADJUSTMENT OF JUVENILE DELINQUENCY OFFENSES**

Attorney General Executive Directive No. 1990-1 established the policy of the State of New Jersey “to encourage the use of ‘curbside warnings’ or ‘stationhouse adjustments’ as an appropriate law enforcement response to non-serious juvenile activity that does not warrant either the taking of a juvenile into custody or the filing of a complaint alleging delinquency.” In April 2003, preliminary reports from a statewide Juvenile Disparity Inquiry, a joint project of the New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety, the Judiciary, the Juvenile Justice Commission and the local County Youth Services Commissions, noted disparities in the availability, implementation and procedures of curbside warnings and stationhouse adjustments as applied in different municipalities. These findings suggested that disparate application of such policies and procedures may have a significant impact in the unequal treatment of juveniles in the criminal justice system. In response to these findings, in May 2004 the Office of the Attorney General established a Stationhouse Adjustment Working Group, chaired by representatives from the Department of Law and Public Safety and consisting of members from municipal police departments, County Prosecutors’ Offices, the Office of the Public Defender, the Juvenile Justice Commission, the Juvenile Officers’ Association, the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police, the New Jersey State Police Field Operations Section and the academic community, to study and report on the use of stationhouse adjustments and curbside warnings throughout the State.

Based on its quantitative and qualitative research and analysis, the Working Group devised



various recommendations to standardize, improve and equalize the use of stationhouse adjustments throughout New Jersey. These recommendations have been incorporated into the Attorney General Guidelines for Stationhouse Adjustments of Juvenile Delinquency Offenses.

THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority granted to the Attorney General of the State of New Jersey by the Criminal Justice Act of 1970, *N.J.S.A. 52:17B-97 et seq.*, and *N.J.S.A. 2B:12-27*, the attached Guidelines have been issued to all County Prosecutors, police chiefs and law enforcement chief executives in the State of New Jersey, to be applied in accordance with the terms of this Directive:

1. Adoption of Guidelines

The “Attorney General Guidelines for Stationhouse Adjustments of Juvenile Delinquency Offenses” attached to this Directive and incorporated by reference into this Directive are formally adopted, with the purpose of providing the basis for procedures to be established to govern the consistent, equitable implementation of stationhouse adjustments throughout the State of New Jersey by law enforcement agencies with patrol jurisdiction, in furtherance of the policy encouraging the use of such adjustments to deal with minor juvenile activity.

2. Implementation

Within 90 days of the effective date of this Directive, every law enforcement agency with patrol jurisdiction shall establish and implement stationhouse adjustment procedures which conform to the Attorney General Guidelines for Stationhouse Adjustments of Juvenile Delinquency Offenses. The Office of the County Prosecutor shall ensure that each law enforcement agency in its jurisdiction complies with this Directive, and shall provide assistance to any law enforcement agency which fails to satisfy the requirements of this section.

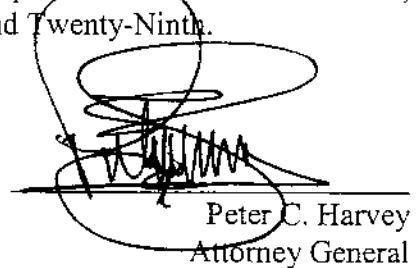
3. Questions and Controversies

Questions regarding the content of this Directive or the interpretation, implementation or utilization of these Guidelines should be addressed to the Prosecutors and Police Bureau, Division of Criminal Justice, at (609) 984-2814.

4. Effective Date

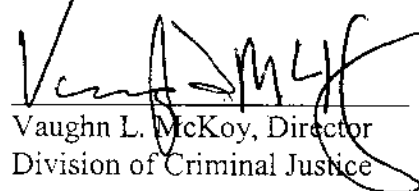
This Law Enforcement Directive shall take effect immediately, and this Directive and the Attorney General Guidelines for Stationhouse Adjustments of Juvenile Delinquency Offenses adopted pursuant to this Directive shall remain in force and effect, unless and until repealed, amended or superseded by order of the Attorney General.

Given under my hand and seal, this 7th day of December, in the year of our Lord Two Thousand and Five, and of the Independence of the United States, the Two Hundred and Twenty-Ninth.



Peter C. Harvey
Attorney General

Attest:



Vaughn L. McKoy, Director
Division of Criminal Justice