peer 1

Hello ladies and gentlemen,

After reading the article, I had mixed feelings about the sentencing. Well he did stab the victim but also the victim and his friends went to the assailant's house to fight him. So it is a double-edged sword in my opinion. Well according to the article "Cherry Hill teen gets probation in non-fatal stabbing", the teen received three year probation, one hundred hours of community service, restitution and a psychological evaluation and technically a restraining order from the victim and his two friends, even though the state did argue for at least two years of juvenile incarceration in a detention facility (Green, 2011). Well in the state of New Jersey an adult that committed the same crime would be sentenced to five to ten years in prison with a NERA, or No Early Release allocation, which means that they must serve at least eighty-five percent of their sentence before being released ("Fines and Prison", 2019). They also could face a one hundred and fifty thousand dollar fine. I think despite that the victim and his friends came to fight or potentially jump the assailant, like the article said there was no need for him to come back out of the house in the first place, especially with a knife. Like stated he could of easily called the cops or just went back inside and ignored them. Yes the victim and his friend would of probably called the assailant out but it would of been better that way. So I believe that based on the charges of adults in the same manner and the details of the case he should of had to serve the two years in a juvenile detention facility.

If I was the judge I would of considered all the evidence that was brought forth to my attention. Though the assailant may have brought the knife because he feared being jumped, there was no reason for him to return back out of the house. He could have called the cops and been on with his day. Considering that he did not decide to take the nonviolent route I believe he should not only have to pay restitution and a psychological evaluation, he should have to serve the two years in a juvenile detention facility, then the three years of probation, and the 100 hours of community service. The reason being is despite he is fifteen years old, he still committed second degree aggravated assault. I understand he might have felt he acted in self-defense or he was a bit scared, he could of made better choices than he did and I feel that he should pay the consequences. Thank you for reading!

Best wishes!

Sierra M. Bolden

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peer 2

Class,

Cherry Hill's non-fatal stabbing crime involving a few teens resulted in probation, community service, and a psychological evaluation. After doing research on the New Jersey juvenile system and philosophy, I came to realize that New Jersey is trying to revamp their system from a punishment based system to more of juvenile reform. According to a News station based out of New Jersey it states that "Gov. Chris Christie has announced plans to close two state prisons for juvenile offenders, and replace them with smaller, more modern facilities in more populated parts of the state." and it also states that "the population at New Jersey’s juvenile detention centers has dropped 68 percent since 2004, when the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative began."(Matthau, 2018) This little bit of information helps me understand how judges may be treating case involving juvenile and how this may have been a result of new policies.

Now whether I agree or not with judge decision over this case, I would have to agree with his judge's decision. If I would have answered this question 7 weeks ago, I would have disagreed 100% with his decision. Yet, if we have learned anything throughout this course is that juvenile reform is a proven system that helps prevent future crimes and criminals. The judge obviously saw that a detention center or jail time would have done nothing for this case. It is also mentioned at the end of the article that "The defendant waived any claim of self-defense, authorities said, and he admitted that he could have stayed inside or called 911 when the trio came to his home."(Green, 2011). Neither the 15-year-old or the 14-year-old were in the right but without knowing more details it is hard to overturn his decision in regards to this case.

If I were the judge I would have kept the decision but I would add that any other incident of this nature or anything else would result in incarceration. Failure to complete the probation or community service would also be grounds for a possible prison sentenced or the possibility of being tried as an adult.

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