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Clerk of Court, Florida Supreme Court
500 S. Duval Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1927

To this Honorable Court:

The Office of the State Attorney for the Second Judicial Circuit would like to voice its opposition to the amendment of the Juvenile Procedure Rule 8.100 which relates to the use of restraints on juveniles.

As we all are aware, juvenile crime has evolved from the simple acts of stealing from a local store and school-yard fights to the most serious of crimes such as drive-by shootings and sexual battery. The communities which we all serve demand security in their homes and in their person. Should our courtrooms deserve any less? Under this new amendment, the men and women who serve our communities the most when they are getting paid the least will be placed in harms way just because certain individuals have a "theory" that the use of restraints is harmful to a juvenile. However, please keep in mind that these are the same juveniles who have betrayed the trust of their communities and placed its members in jeopardy due to their own delinquent acts.

There are numerous instances in which courtrooms are disrupted by juveniles and I am sure that many of you may have seen such acts. I have enclosed a police report that was written due to a juvenile threatening the undersigned. Please pay close attention to the statements of "I felt like taking that gun away from that Deputy and doing what happened in Atlanta" as well as "if these cuffs weren't on me I would have hit that State Attorney in the f--- face." Is this a risk that this Honorable Court is willing to take?

In summary, the Office of the State Attorney for the Second Judicial Circuit asks you to please deny this amendment; to do otherwise would place those who serve in harms way.

Respectfully,

Eric Trombley
Assistant State Attorney
Chief, Leon County Juvenile Division