

Okanogan Bar Association Resolution 6-21-16

Whereas the OKanogan County commissioners made public that they are considering moving the Juvenile Detention Center from its current location near the courthouse in Okanogan, Washington, to locations outside of Okanogan County and

Whereas public meetings held by the commissioners have explored the costs of moving the Okanogan county juvenile detention to Chelan County or Medical Lake, Washington, but those meetings have not explored the costs of improving or rebuilding the local facility, and

whereas the representation of Juveniles who are housed far away from the county would be significantly more expensive to the county and to families of juveniles, and


whereas the existing Okanogan County Juvenile detention staff provide model and best practices programs in and by our local community for juveniles who will be released and re-integrated back into our local community, and

whereas the difficulty and expense of obtaining meaningful attorney-client privileged communications with this volume of juveniles housed in a distant location may pressure attorneys and courts toward practices that are unconstitutional or unethical under the Rules of Professional Responsibility, and due in no part to the practice of defense counsel, attorneys may become unable or unwilling to provide affordable effective representation, AND

whereas lawyers of Okanogan county have an ethical duty to provide effective, competent, and diligent representation of youth in detention,

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the bar association of Okanogan County that for the effective, ethical and affordable representation of all Okanogan County juveniles, the Juvenile Detention Center for Okanogan county must remain located within our county, the Okanogan County bar association opposes proposals to move the local juvenile facility outside the county; and urges the commissioners to find means to keep the facility inside the county.

By special meeting and unanimous consent of the Okanogan County Bar Association

  
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Ted Reinbold,  
President