



Department of  
Youth Services

## Message from DYS Director Harvey Reed Addressing Collateral Sanctions

April 25, 2012

On November 28, 2011, DYS and the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (DRC) co-sponsored a workgroup to address collateral consequences for individuals with felony or misdemeanor convictions and adjudications. This event, kicked off and supported by Governor Kasich, provided a unique opportunity for legislators, judges, prosecutors, criminal justice professionals and other stakeholders to come together to find common ground in addressing the issue of collateral sanctions.

The Juvenile Justice Workgroup was created and assigned the task to address the specific barriers that restrain a juvenile's reintegration into the community as well as hinder a juvenile's ability to obtain gainful employment. Representatives from juvenile court judges, non-profit foundations, advocacy organizations, treatment providers and DYS staff, tackled the sanctions that impact juveniles, including breach of confidentiality involving juvenile records, educational needs for youth returning to their communities and the impact of laws or administrative codes related to employment.

A number of forums were held throughout the state over the last several months. These events provided the opportunity to further discuss and develop strategies to improve the lives of juveniles and adult offenders impacted by collateral consequences. As a result of the Juvenile Justice Workgroup and forums, the following juvenile recommendations were made:

- Promote and ensure the confidentiality of juvenile records
- Develop the juvenile portion of the Civil Impacts of Criminal Convictions Database (CIVICC) to clearly distinguish between adult convictions and juvenile adjudications in background checks
- Allow judges the discretion to seal juvenile records when appropriate

I am pleased to share that House Bill 524, sponsored by Reps. McGregor and Heard, was introduced yesterday with the goal of breaking down barriers related to collateral sanctions ([http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/BillText129/129\\_HB\\_524\\_I\\_N.html](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/BillText129/129_HB_524_I_N.html)). We support the bill, and I look forward to testifying in support of its passage. While this legislation is only the first step, it is a meaningful step in the right direction to give impacted youth and adults a true second chance upon reentry into the community.

Harvey J. Reed, Director  
Department of Youth Services