

## FEDERAL LAWS PROTECTING YOUR RIGHTS

The behavior modification industry is violative of the constitutional, civil, and human rights of American citizens, including children and teens. Below, you will find a list of violations, applicable federal law and court rulings, and cause for taking immediate and deliberate action to regulate and/or close down this un-American industry.

1. **The Fourteenth Amendment: Equal Protection of the Laws**  
According to U.S. Supreme Court rulings a teenager is protected under the 14<sup>th</sup> amendment(1) and due process is necessary before extreme punishments and removal of liberties is imposed(2).

The results of the Milgram Experiment(3) and Stanford Prison Experiment(4) exemplify the absolute danger children and teens are in when put in absolute captivity under the control of unqualified staff under illegal and immoral conditions.

Placing children and teens in a lockdown facility without benefit of due process is a violation of the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment

2. **The First Amendment: Freedom of Expression**  
According to U.S. Supreme Court rulings, a teenager is protected under the 14<sup>th</sup> amendment. The court stated that school officials must have “more than a mere desire to avoid discomfort and unpleasantness that always accompany an unpopular viewpoint...Undifferentiated fear or apprehension of disturbance is not enough to overcome the right to freedom of expression.”(5)

Since the First Amendment applies to children and teens, programs that deny self-expression, freedom of association (i.e. talking with other students), or freedom of religion ought to be immediately closed down for constitutional violations. Many behavior modification programs have received and continue to receive state and federal funds to operate. Some school children are shipped out of state or even abroad under an Independent Education Plan through their school district.

Denying children and teenagers freedom of association and self-expression is a direct violation of their first amendment rights.

3. **The Eighth Amendment: Cruel and Unusual Punishment**  
It is understood that the bar of cruel and unusual punishment applies strictly to government acts. However, as stated in number 2, these programs do receive federal assistance in many cases. And, acting under the color of authority for school districts, juvenile courts, and family courts throughout the nation

these programs are torturing and killing Americans never found guilty of any crime. These programs violate Habeas Corpus.

The average age for legal consent to sexual intercourse within the United States is 16. The average age for legal right to file for emancipation from parents is 16. Teenagers are afforded more control over their bodies and futures from the age of 16 throughout the United States. A person who is fit to drive, have sexual intercourse, have an abortion, and become emancipated by law is certainly protected by Habeas Corpus and Due Process (supra).

The U.S. District Court, District of Utah, in *Milonas v. Williams* (Nos. 80-1569, 81-1407., 1982) found Provo Canyon School guilty of cruel and inhumane treatment of children at a time when Provo Canyon School was receiving state and federal money and the program is still in operation abusing children and defrauding families today.

Children and teenagers are protected from these practices under the 8th Amendment. Programs and parents who violate children's rights are in direct violation of federal law.

#### 4. The Ninth Amendment: Unenumerated Rights

It was certainly not the intention of the founders of the United States to allow for the systematic torture, brainwashing, and other gross civil and human rights violations to be allowed against the young citizens of our great nation. Children are denied their privacy, being forced to urinate, defecate, bathe, change menstrual pads, and more in front of peers and staff. This is done purely to humiliate, psychologically torture and break the child.

In addition, the incoming and outgoing mail is censored and/or monitored/read by staff and children are forced to re-write letters that do not conform to the rules, mainly, letters that expose abuse and wrongdoing by the program and its staff. This is a 14<sup>th</sup> amendment violation according to the Federal District Court findings in *Milonas v. Williams* (Nos. 80-1569, 81-1407., 1982): "In former students' action against private school for youths with behavioral problems for its use of "behavioral-modification" program allegedly violating section 1983, record supported finding that the school's use of polygraph machine, its monitoring and censoring of student mail, its use of isolation rooms, and its use of excessive physical force violated students'

First and Fourteenth Amendment rights. U.S.C.A. Const.Amends. 1, 14; 42 U.S.C.A. § 1983.”

Certainly our Constitution can and should be read as to demand the protection of our most vulnerable, our children, from such atrocious crimes as torture and death under the guise of treatment.

5. The Thirteenth Amendment: Abolishing Slavery  
Slavery is illegal in the United States except for those convicted of a crime and considered a part of their repayment to society. Many children are being used as slave labor in behavior modification programs.

Children are being forced to labor without compensation and under duress for the financial benefit of these programs.(6)

These programs violate the Thirteenth Amendment and Federal Child Labor laws.

#### Citations

1. Bellotti v. Baird (1979) U.S. Supreme Court
2. Ingraham v. Wright (1977) U.S. Supreme Court
3. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Milgram\\_experiment](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Milgram_experiment)
4. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stanford\\_Prison\\_Experiment](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stanford_Prison_Experiment)
5. Tinker v. Des Moines Independent School District (1969) U.S. Supreme Court
6. <http://www.heal-online.org/bethelsuits.htm>

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[www.heal-online.org/teenrights.htm](http://www.heal-online.org/teenrights.htm)