

**Juvenile Justice Coalition:
Statement on the Death of Joseph Haynes**

The Juvenile Justice Coalition (JJC) is shocked and saddened to learn about the death of 16-year-old Joseph Haynes at the Franklin County Courthouse. Safety is imperative at the courthouse and this safety must extend to all individuals – including the youth and families who are in court to attend hearings. Building security, which includes a metal detector at the front entrance, checks each child or family member to ensure that they are unarmed, which makes this use of force even more troubling. Any calls for increased building security for youth and families are misplaced.

Many of the young people who come through the juvenile court system have experienced trauma, including witnessing or directly experiencing violence in their neighborhoods, homes, and schools. In addition, attending court can be an extremely stressful experience where life-changing decisions are made. After today's incident, it is imperative that the youth, families, court staff, and others who were impacted by or witnessed the event receive the care they need to process this tragic event.

Our hearts at JJC go out to Joseph's family as they mourn their loss. The Franklin County Sheriff's office must provide immediate reassurance that young people and their families can attend court safely and that there are developmentally appropriate protocols in place to respond to any disturbances at the court that do not rely on use of force. Additionally, in order to mitigate the trauma associated with this incident, support must be provided to the youth, families, and other individuals who were impacted by or witnessed this tragic event. Finally, the juvenile court should review its policies to reduce stress as much as possible for youth and families coming to the court for hearings.