

Inmate able to change legal system from prison

Juvenile offenders now able to regain driver's licenses

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Thousands of driver's license suspensions issued by Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court will be lifted this month, mostly due to the efforts of an ex-con who bucked the legal system while he was behind bars.

The 8th District Ohio Court of Appeals ruled that Juvenile Court judges cannot suspend a driver's license beyond a person's 21st birthday.

And it limited their authority to collect fines not paid by an offender's 21st birthday.

The ruling will free an estimated 6,600 adults in Northeast Ohio, and eventually thousands more across the state, to reapply for a driver's license, attorney Ed Icove said.

Icove and attorney David Dawson of the Legal Aid Society of Cleveland helped Rodney Keffer, 30, win the court order that now can be used to force juvenile courts across the state to lift license suspensions on adults, Dawson said.