

# Kennedy charity's bail plan will likely release some violent repeat offenders

By [Rebecca Rosenberg](#) and [Ruth Brown](#)

September 21, 2018 | 10:33pm



An enhanced supervision housing unit on Rikers Island. AP

A Kennedy family charity's plan to spend millions [bailing out 16- to 18-year-olds and women from city jails](#) will put violent, repeat offenders onto the streets, a Manhattan law-enforcement source tells The Post.

"I looked at those cases, and they were very violent cases," said the source.

Of the dozen teens being prosecuted by the Manhattan District Attorney's Office who could be sprung under the scheme, at least eight were arrested for committing crimes while out on bail, the source said.

"These are individuals who are committing very violent crimes, and many were out on violent crimes already," they said.

Among the teens eligible for release are a 17-year-old who was arrested for sexual assault while out on bail for robbing a store.

There's also a 16-year-old who was out on bail for grand larceny in Brooklyn when he allegedly committed another robbery and grand larceny in Manhattan — and another arrested for three robberies while on bail for two.

But bail eligibility in New York is not based on how dangerous a defendant is — only how likely they are to return to court, experts explain.

“Bail is not premised on an accused’s perceived danger or fear that he or she will commit further crimes,” said ex-Manhattan prosecutor turned defense lawyer Jeremy Saland.

“It is not the arrest offense that dictates what, if any bail, should be set but how the court will best ensure the defendant’s return.”

Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights also plans to bail out women from city slammers.

Those eligible for release include a woman who allegedly committed a knifepoint robbery while pushing her 4-year-old in a stroller at 4 a.m., one who as arrested for cutting off her sister’s finger with a meat cleaver and one accused of drenching a store in lighter fluid and setting it ablaze.

The foundation could begin bailing people out as early as Monday, though sources said it may not begin until early October.

Insiders are holding out hope the orchestrators of the mass bailout will change their minds.

“I hope when they find out, they will be reasonable and we will not see these dangerous people bailed out,” said the source.

A law-enforcement source previously told The Post that 231 of the 419 women in city jails are currently eligible for bail — including 93 in Manhattan, 52 in Brooklyn, 28 in The Bronx, 40 in Queens and 18 on Staten Island.

*Additional reporting by Emily Saul*