In re H.V.

A juvenile was arrested by police during the course of a murder investigation. When the juvenile was brought before a magistrate for warnings, he stated that he wished to contact his mother to tell her to get him an attorney. The magistrate informed the juvenile that he was not entitled to contact his mother. The juvenile subsequently made incriminating statements.

At trial, the court suppressed the evidence and statements which were obtained from police on the basis that the juvenile was improperly denied his 5th Amendment right to assistance of counsel. The court of appeals affirmed, finding that the juvenile's statement that he wished to contact his mother so that she could get him an attorney was an unequivocal request for counsel, regardless of the manner in which it was phrased. Examining the totality of the circumstances, there was no question that the juvenile was seeking legal representation.