

RESPONDENT INFORMATION

The purpose of the Youth Court is not punitive, but to help teens appearing before the court to refocus their efforts in a positive direction.

The child will be represented by an advocate (a volunteer law student). Instead of being sentenced by a Judge, a jury comprised of peers (high school students aged 14-18) will hand down a sanction.

All Youth Court hearings and proceedings are confidential.

The complaint and Youth Court process does not establish an official Juvenile Court record for the child. The record of the charge and proceeding will be immediately sealed upon completion of the disposition. However, the Juvenile Court will retain information to identify your child as having participated in a Youth Court hearing for a period of five years. Any additional charges will prevent the opportunity to participate in additional diversion programs in that five-year period.

If the parents, child, or the victim are dissatisfied with the result of the hearing, they may request that the matter be referred back to Juvenile Court. In the event the child does not complete the sanctions, the child and parents may be brought back for further hearings or the case may be returned to Juvenile Court for further action.