

the youth court

Information for young people
and parents/guardians

Warwickshire Youth Offending Team
YOT

WHAT IS THE YOUTH COURT?

The Youth Court deals with young people from the age of 10 to 17 years when they are charged with a criminal offence.

WHO WILL BE IN COURT?

Solicitors, Court Clerk, YOT staff.

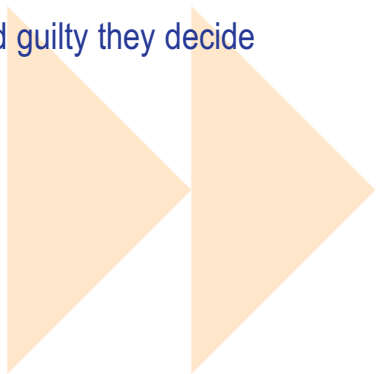
The Magistrates who are specially trained for Youth Court work.

There are usually three Magistrates who sit at the front of the Court. They are sometimes called 'The Bench'.

WHAT IS THE MAGISTRATES' JOB?

If you plead “not guilty” they will hold a trial.
They will then have to decide whether or not you are guilty.

If you plead guilty or are found guilty they decide what sentence to give you.




THE CLERK OF THE COURT

The Clerk usually sits close to the Magistrates.

He or she will ask you to give your name and date of birth and read out the charges against you.

It is their job to give the Magistrates legal advice and make sure that Court procedures run smoothly.



THE CROWN PROSECUTOR

He or she must tell the Court the details of the offence(s) which have led to you being brought to Court and details of any previous offending.

If you plead not guilty he/she may ask witnesses and perhaps you, questions about the offence(s) at a trial.

THE DEFENCE SOLICITOR

He or she will put your side of the matter to the Court and be there to help and advise you.

YOUTH COURT OFFICER

A person from the Youth Offending Team will be there to help you and will explain what may happen in Court. They may be asked to write a report about you if you are found guilty of an offence in order to assist the Magistrates.

THE COURT USHER

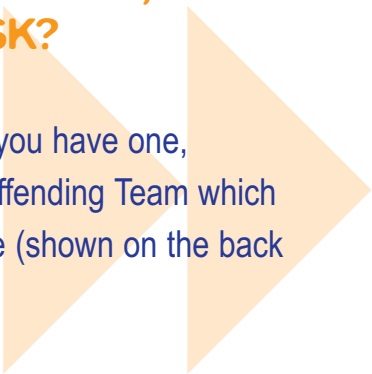
He or she will call you when it is your turn in Court and show you where to go in the Courtroom. You must let the Court Usher know that you have arrived at Court as soon as you get there.

THE PRESS

Reporters may be there but they are not always allowed to report what they hear in Court.

IF I HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THE YOUTH COURT, WHOM SHOULD I ASK?

You could ask your solicitor if you have one, otherwise contact the Youth Offending Team which covers the area where you live (shown on the back of this leaflet).



EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

We will treat you fairly and with respect.

We expect you not to use comments or behaviour which is:

- racist
 - sexist
 - makes others feel uncomfortable.
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YOUR RIGHTS

If you are unhappy with how you have been treated by a person from the Youth Offending Team tell us by:

- talking to your worker

OR

- telephoning the Unit Manager at your worker's office

OR

- ask for the Complaints Leaflet

CONTACTS

Warwickshire County Council
departments of Education and Social
Services, in partnership with
Warwickshire Health Authority,
Warwickshire Probation, Warwickshire
Police with Bail/Remand Services
provided by Barnardos.

Diane Johnson

Youth Offending Team Manager

If this information is difficult to
understand, we can provide it in
another format for example in large
print, on audio tape, in another
language or through discussion.

**Rugby Office (covering Coleshill,
Atherstone, Bedworth, Nuneaton and
Rugby areas)**

Warwickshire Youth Offending Team
Newton Hall
Lower Hillmorton Road
Rugby
CV21 3TU

Telephone: 01788 331256

**Warwick Office (covering Warwick,
Leamington and Stratford areas)**

Warwickshire Youth Offending Team
Sterling House
12 Hamilton Terrace
Hollywalk
Leamington Spa
CV32 4LY

Telephone: 01926 736200



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE