

The meeting will give you the opportunity to:

- tell the young person how you were affected by the harm they caused to you
- contribute to an action plan which enables the young person to make up for what they have done to you and helps stop their offending



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Young people aged 10-17 who have committed a crime, admit their guilt and agree to come to a conference may be referred by the Public Prosecution Service or Youth Court to the Youth Conference Service to arrange a meeting with you.

What is a Youth Conference?

The conference is a meeting. It will give you the opportunity to ask the young person at the meeting why they committed the offence and tell them how you were affected by what happened.

It gives the young person an opportunity to say sorry to you and for you to make suggestions about what the young person can do to make amends.

You don't have to come alone. You can bring a friend or relative who can give you advice and support or you may wish to have your views conveyed by a friend or relative. The conference will be held in a neutral venue and at a time to suit you.

Who else can go to the meeting?

There are some people who must attend the meeting. These are:

- The Youth Conference Co-Ordinator - they will organise the meeting and go to your home to talk to you about attending the meeting
- The young person who committed the offence and their appropriate adult, usually a parent
- Police Officer trained for youth conferencing

There are others who may be there such as a social worker or youth worker or someone who can represent the views of the community.

Are there some people who must attend the meeting?

What else happens at the meeting?

Everyone will talk about the offence and you will be given the opportunity to inform the young person of the effect the offence had on you. You will then be invited to make suggestions to the Young Person stating what you would like him or her to do to make right the harm they have caused you and show they are genuinely sorry. Your suggestions and those made by others at the conference will help form a Youth Conference Plan. A plan may include the following:

- A written apology to you
- The young person making reparation to you by undertaking a specific activity
- Making a payment to you, covering but not exceeding your losses
- The young person being under the supervision of an adult
- The young person performing unpaid work
- Participating in activities to address their offending behaviour
- Submit to a restriction on conduct or whereabouts
- Submit to treatment for mental health or dependency on drugs or alcohol

After the Meeting...

The Youth Conference Coordinator will write a report to the Prosecutor or Youth Court detailing what was agreed. If they agree to the action plan the young person will have to start it within two days.

What happens next?

The Youth Justice Agency will monitor the young person's progress on the action plan to ensure it is completed satisfactorily. Should you wish we will keep you informed of their progress by letter or you can contact us at anytime by telephone. The Youth Conference Co-ordinator will ask you if you wish to be kept informed when they visit you.

What happens if the young person does not finish their action plan?

The Youth Conference plan is a serious legal agreement. If a young person fails to comply with the action plan they will be returned to Court or the Public Prosecution Service will be notified. You will be consulted on this and we will represent your views to the Court or PPS as to what you want to happen.

