



Youth Justice Agency
Youth Conference Service



youth conference | **your decision**

www.youthjusticeagencyni.gov.uk

If you are aged 10-17, have committed a crime, admit to guilt and agree to come to a conference, you may be referred by the Public Prosecution Service to the Youth Conference Service to arrange a meeting between you, your family, the victim of your crime and others.

What is a Youth Conference?

The conference is a meeting. It will give you the chance to tell the people at the meeting – why you committed the offence.

It gives the victim the chance to tell you – how they have been affected by what you did to him or her.

The meeting will want you to :

- **tell the victim what you will do to show that you are sorry for the upset and harm you have caused to the victim**
- **agree an action plan to make up for what you have done and stop offending**



Who else can go to the meeting?

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

- **The Youth Conference Co-ordinator - this is the person who will organise the meeting and go to your home to talk to you about the meeting before the victim is invited to attend**
- **An adult who is responsible for you - for example, your mother or father, a Social Worker or another appropriate adult**
- **A Police Officer trained for youth conferencing**

There are others who may also be there:

- **The victim and someone who can give the victim advice and support**
- **A member of your wider family circle, a friend, youth worker or teacher**
- **Your legal representative (you are entitled to legal aid) if you invite them**

**Who
will you
bring?**

What else happens at the meeting?

Everyone will talk about the offence and how it has affected them. You may then agree an Action Plan. An Action Plan may include some of the following:

- Apologise to the victim
- Make reparation for the offence
- Make a payment to the victim (not exceeding cost of replacement or repair of damage or loss)
- Submit to supervision of an adult
- Perform unpaid work or service in the community
- Participate in such activities designed to address offending behaviour
- Submit to restrictions on conduct or whereabouts
- Submit to treatment for mental health or dependency on drugs or alcohol

After the Meeting...

The Youth Conference Co-ordinator tells the Prosecutor what you have agreed. If the Prosecutor agrees the Youth Conference Plan, you will have to start it within a couple of days. If you are on an Action Plan agreed by the Prosecutor the Action Plan will be on your criminal record but not as a conviction.

What happens next?

The Youth Justice Agency will support and monitor you to assist you to complete your Action Plan.



What happens if you do not finish your Youth Conference Plan?

The Youth Conference Plan is a serious legal agreement showing the victim and yourself that you really want to change, stop offending and make up for what you have done.

If you do not stick or commit fully to the agreement, the Prosecution Service may decide to take you to Court.

What are the consequences?

Coming to a Youth Conference meeting is the first step you have made to show others and yourself that you are willing to make amends and change.

It is a good step forward to making things right. It is the next step for you to a better future.

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