

Youth conditional caution

What is a youth conditional caution?

A youth conditional caution is something you can be given by the police because of behaviour you have committed that is against the law. The police will give you this rather than sending you to court.

It is usually given to you at the police station by a police officer. You will need to sign this as will a parent or carer. Unsigned youth conditional cautions are sent to court to be dealt with.

The police then tell the youth justice service they have given you this caution so that we can get in touch with you.

This is a consequence that can be used to offer you some support to hopefully avoid getting into trouble again.

Who is the youth justice service?

We are a team of people who work together to try and support young people to make better choices with their behaviour and avoid getting into trouble with police.

What do I need to do?

There will be conditions of this caution you need to complete, for example attending meetings with the youth justice service and doing something to make up for the harm caused by the offence. This will be discussed properly with you by your youth justice service worker. A youth conditional caution is a 20 week programme.

You will be offered appointments each week (unless told otherwise) where you will meet with someone from the youth justice service. Initially, we will speak about what happened and why. We will ask questions about your life including friends, school, lifestyle. This will help us to work out how we can provide some support to help you avoid this behaviour again.

You will need to

- attend appointments as asked to by the youth justice service;
- be on time;
- do not attend under the influence of drugs or alcohol;
- let your youth justice service worker know if you have changed number or address;
- let us know if you need to change or cancel an appointment, we may need to ask for proof if you are unable to attend.

What if I don't?

The police will be told if young people do not agree to work with the youth justice service. This offence will then be referred to be dealt with in court and you will need to attend court instead. The court will be told that you did not engage.

Your rights

If you are unhappy about how you have been treated by the youth justice service you can tell us by:

- speaking to your worker, or a duty worker;
- phoning the youth justice service manager;
- asking for information on how to make a complaint.

Isle of Wight Youth Justice Service

County Hall, High Street Newport,
Isle of Wight PO30 1UD

Tel: 01983 823011

www.iow.gov.uk/youthjusticeservice

If you have difficulty understanding this document, please contact us on 01983 823011 and we will do our best to help you.