

Going to court



What do I need to do?

- Be on time.
- Bring with you any paperwork you have been asked to bring.
- Dress smartly.
- Take any medications you need with you.

What happens if I miss court?

- The court will ask the police to find and arrest you.
- You might have to stay in a police cell until you go to court.
- You might not get bail in the future.
- Your hearing may start without you and you could miss the opportunity to give your side of the story.

What does being on bail mean?

- If you are let home after you have been charged, this means you are on bail.
- Bail means you are trusted to behave until you go to court.
- You will be given a day and time that you need to attend court.
- You will be given a piece of paper (bail notice) that will explain what you need to do.
- The police will give you instructions of what you need to do whilst you are on bail, these are called bail conditions. Ask for help if you don't understand.
- Breaking the law while you are on bail means you will get into more trouble.

- Not sticking to bail conditions will get you into more trouble.
- Not attending court when you need to is breaking the law and will get you into more trouble.

Do I need a solicitor?

- Yes. Speak to a solicitor as soon as you can.
- Tell the solicitor your side of the story, they will help you in court.
- Your solicitor will help you to understand what you need to do.
- There will be a duty solicitor at court who can help you on the day.
- If you need to find a solicitor near you, phone 0845 345 4345 or visit www.communitylegaladvice.org.uk

What will happen at court?

Tell the court your side of the story. Tell the truth and if you are sorry for what has happened then tell the court this. If you plead guilty or you are found guilty, the court will decide a sentence for you.

Listen carefully at court, if you don't understand then make someone aware of this so they can help you.

Who needs to come to court?

You will need your parent or carer to come with you. Parents or carers who don't attend can get into trouble. Young people over 16 do not need a parent or carer with them but it will be more helpful for you if they can.

What if I am too ill to go to court?

People who are too ill to attend court need to tell the court and their solicitor. They will need proof from their doctor that they are too ill to attend.

What if I have additional needs or disabilities?

If you, or your parent or carer need extra help or support, then let the court know this so they can help.

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

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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.