

# Pre-sentence report



## What is a pre-sentence report?

A pre-sentence report is a report that the court will ask for when you have pleaded guilty or been found guilty of an offence, and the court is thinking about what they should give you as a sentence. This report helps the magistrates or judge know more about you so they can make this decision.

One of the options they might have to think about is custody.

**Fact file – custody means prison.**

Youth detention (also known as custody) is where young people are sent to serve their sentence.

There are three types that can be considered depending on your age, gender and needs:

1. Youth offending institute.
2. Secure training centre.
3. Secure childrens home.

The report will be written by a youth justice service worker who will meet with you and your parents or carers. The report will suggest how the court can best deal with you. The report will also suggest to the court how likely you are to commit more offences and how much contact you should have as part of your sentence.

This report takes three to six weeks to write. Other services may be asked for their input, e.g. social care, health, and education.

## 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 will the youth justice service worker do?**

The youth justice service worker will give you clear instructions about where and when they need to see you. During your appointment, they will talk to you about:

- the offence and what happened from your point of view;
- how you feel about the offence;
- any impact on the victims and how you feel about the victims;
- your home and family life;
- your education or work;
- other issues that might be a part of your life such as health, drugs and alcohol, lifestyle, or relationships.

## **What do I need to do?**

- Attend your appointments and answer the questions as best as you can.
- Attend court when you are supposed to (If you do not attend, a warrant will be issued for your arrest).
- Stay out of trouble

## **What do my parents or carers need to do?**

- Attend one of the appointments and answer the questions as best as they can.
- Give their views on how they feel about the offence.
- Tell us if they feel they need any support for themselves.

## Who will see the report?

You will be given a copy of the report before your appearance at court. The report will not be read out in court however it will be seen by:

- you;
- your parent or carer;
- the solicitors involved in the case;
- court officers;
- the magistrates or judge.

## 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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[www.iow.gov.uk/youthjusticeservice](http://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.