

# Referral Order



## What is a Referral Order?

A Referral Order is a sentence given by the court. This can range between three and 12 months.

After your court appearance, a worker from the youth justice service will contact you and arrange to meet.

Your youth justice service worker will meet with you and then write a report that will help to decide what programme you need to support you best. This will be decided at your panel meeting.

## Panel meeting

Within four weeks of your court appearance, you will have a panel meeting. this will usually include:

- youth justice service workers;
- youth justice service volunteers;
- your parents or carers.

This meeting is so that we can decide on a contract for you. A contract will be made up of programmes and support that can be put into place to help you to avoid getting into further trouble. Your worker can explain this in more detail with you. Review panel meetings will be held every three months.

## 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?

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 and complete your contract by the end of the order.

You need to:

- 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?

If you miss appointments without good reason you will receive a written warning. If you receive two warnings then miss a third appointment, it could result in you being sent back to court. The court can then sentence you again.

## 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.