



Youth Justice Agency

An Ghníomhaireacht um Cheartas i leith an Aosa Óig

Agentrie fur Young-Yins Fang'lt wi tha Laa

YOUTH CONFERENCE INFORMATION FOR VICTIMS

**MAKING COMMUNITIES SAFER BY HELPING
CHILDREN TO STOP OFFENDING**

What is a Youth Conference?

If you have been a victim of crime, and the person responsible was a young person aged 10-17 who has agreed to work with the Youth Justice Agency, you will be offered the opportunity to attend a youth conference.

If you have agreed to take part in a youth conference, thank you. We appreciate that it takes time and courage to do this.

We recognise that what happened to you may have had a physical, emotional or financial impact on you and your family and this why it's important you tell us about it.

At times people affected by a crime may feel angry, upset, scared, anxious or a mixture of emotions. The youth conference gives you an opportunity to meet with the young person face to face and let them know how you feel.

A youth conference is a meeting. It will give you the chance to talk to the young person about what happened and how it has affected you.

It gives you the opportunity to make suggestions about what the young person can do to make amends and how to make positive changes.

It gives the young person an opportunity to acknowledge what happened, and how their actions affected you.

Physical Harm

- Were you injured? Did this stop you from going to school/work/out & about?
 - Did you see a doctor or attend hospital?
 - How are you getting over your injuries?
- It may be useful to think of all this in relation to now, in six months time, in a few years time and how this might affect you and your loved ones.

Emotional Harm

How would you describe how you felt at the time?

- Some people may feel angry or upset for a long time.
- Some people may be afraid to go about their business
- Some people may lose confidence
- Some people may be scared it will happen again.

Financial Impact

- What was the financial impact of this happening to you?
- If any item was stolen, was it returned?
- If your property was damaged, was it repaired?
- Did you have to claim on your insurance?
- Did you have to pay an excess fee?
- Did you lose wages through time off work?
- Did the offence affect your profits?

Practical Impact

Every offence impacts on people's time, from making statements, dealing with the police and the criminal justice process. Taking time out to deal with the impact. It may be useful for you to reflect on what this has meant for you. The Youth Conference Co-ordinator will talk to you about the 'points to consider' discussed in this leaflet and how the youth conference can best meet your needs.

Who attends?

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

The young person and an appropriate adult, this is a parent, family member, carer or social worker.

A PSNI Youth Diversion Officer who is trained for youth conferencing.

The Youth Conference Coordinator - this is the Youth Justice worker who will help prepare you for the meeting and talk to all those who will be involved.

Others who can attend

There are some people who can also attend the meeting. These could be:

You can attend, if you wish you can come alone or you can bring a friend or family member.

A member of your wider circle who can give you advice and support or you may wish for your views to be conveyed by them.

A person who can support the young person to make positive changes and help them connect into their community.
Youth worker, teacher etc.

What happens at the meeting?

Everyone will talk about what happened and how it has affected them. The young person may agree to an Action Plan. An Action Plan can include:

- An apology to you.
- An activity of your choosing to show that they are sorry.
- A payment towards your losses, where appropriate.
- Supervision by an adult at a Youth Justice Agency office.
- Performing unpaid work in the community.
- Participating in such activities designed to promote positive changes in their behaviour.
- Restrictions on conduct or whereabouts.
- Treatment and support for mental health or dependency on drugs or alcohol.

What happens after the meeting?

The Youth Justice Agency will tell the Public Prosecution Service or the Court what has been agreed.

If the Action Plan is accepted the young person will have to start it within a couple of days.

The Youth Justice Agency will support the young person to complete their Action Plan.

Should you wish, we will keep you informed of their progress by letter or you can contact us anytime by telephone.

What happens if the young person doesn't finish their plan?

The Action Plan is a legal agreement. If a young person fails to stick to their action plan their case may be returned to Court or the Public Prosecution Service will be notified.

You will be consulted on this and we will represent your views to the Court or PPS as to what you want to happen.

Remember the meeting will give you the opportunity to:

Tell the young person how you were affected by the harm they caused to you.

Contribute to an action plan which enables the young person to make up for what happened and make positive changes to stop their offending.



Youth Justice Agency

An Ghníomhaireacht um Cheartas i leith an Aosa Óig

Agentrie fur Young-Yins Fang'It wi tha Laa



Trauma
Informed
Practice

Adverse
Childhood
Experiences

This leaflet was created in
consultation with children
and young people in YJA