



Youth Justice Agency

An Ghníomhaireacht um Cheartas i leith an Aosa Óig

Agentrie fur Young-Yins Fang'It wi tha Laa

YOUR YOUTH CONFERENCE AND HOW TO PREPARE FOR IT

A GUIDE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AND THEIR PARENTS AND CARERS

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

Coming to a youth conference meeting is the first step you have made to show others and yourself that you are willing to make amends and make changes.

It is normal to feel worried or even scared about meeting the person harmed by your actions.

Your Youth Conference Coordinator will support you though the process. They will get to know you, understand what happened, how you got into trouble and how you feel about it.



Lets start at the beginning...

People will want to hear what happened and how you got into trouble.
We will help you to think about how you will explain this.



Who you were with at the time?



What you were doing?



What you were thinking?



What you did afterwards?

How do you feel about what happened?



What you think now about what happened?



Is there anything you are worried about?



Do you have any questions?



Preparing for your conference



After you have agreed to take part in a youth conference a staff member from the Youth Justice Agency will meet with you and your family. This person is called a Youth Conference Coordinator and it is their job to support you and the victim to prepare and attend the meeting.

The Youth Conference Coordinator will work closely with you and your family or those who look after you. It is important that you meet with your coordinator.

Your coordinator may meet you at home, in the Youth Justice Agency office or a place that is private and comfortable for everyone.



Your Youth Conference Coordinator will meet with you and your family or those who are looking after you. They will spend time getting to know you and those who care for you.

Your Youth Conference Coordinator will explain what a Youth Conference is again. They will go over this to make sure you understand what will happen and what the next steps are.



Your Youth Conference Coordinator will ask you what happened and how you got into trouble. They will ask you to tell your story in your own words. They will ask you what you think and how you feel.



Your Youth Conference Coordinator will ask you about areas of your life such as school, family, friends, things that are going well and areas you need help and support with.

Meeting your victim



The victim may be there. They may feel angry or scared, upset or have difficulty believing your story. Think about how you would deal with this.



It's important to talk to your parent/carer and your Youth Justice worker about how meeting and hearing from the victim might make you feel.



The victim will talk about their experience and how your actions have made them feel.



You will be asked to talk about what they have said.



If you feel comfortable, it is better to look at the victim, that way they will know you are listening and mean what you say.



Your meetings with your Youth Justice worker will help you prepare for meeting the victim.

Thinking about your Action Plan




At your conference meeting you will be asked what you can do to make things better. This will be called the Action Plan.

Your Youth Justice worker will talk to you about all the things that can be part of your Action Plan but it is important that you think about what you can do to make things better for both the victim and yourself.

You may be asked to do some things you are not sure about. You can talk to your Youth Justice worker about anything you are unsure about.

Be honest, be yourself.



**It's your
conference, your
life, your choice**



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Trauma
Informed
Practice

Adverse
Childhood
Experiences

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