



Youth Justice NSW

Youth Justice Conferencing Factsheet for Parents and Carers

What do I need to know about a Youth Justice Conference as a parent/carer?

A Youth Justice Conference is a meeting between people who have been directly affected by a crime.

As the carer you have a very important role in supporting your child at the conference. If you cannot attend, you should arrange for a member of your family, or another adult your child trusts, to be with them at the conference.

If your child is under 14 years of age, you or another adult chosen by you must be present at the youth justice conference to support your child.

If your child is 14 years of age or older, an adult chosen by your child (who may be you) must be present at the youth justice conference to support your child.

You should also make sure your child understands their rights, including:

- your child's right to legal advice
- where legal advice can be accessed and
- your child's right to choose to have the matter dealt with by the court.

At the conference you will be asked to help decide what should be in the outcome plan agreement for your child.

Who organises the conference?

The Conference Convenor organises the conference. They will plan the conference date, time and location with everyone involved. They will also spend time with you before the conference explaining the conference process and your crucial role in it.

Your rights

- You have the right to be at your child's conference and take part in the decision-making.
- You have the right to have the Conference Convenor explain things to you, and answer any questions you may have.
- You have the right to make a suggestion to the Conference Convenor as to where and when the conference should be held.
- You have the right to an interpreter at the conference. If you have difficulty speaking English please let the Conference Convenor know so an interpreter can be organised.
- You and other participants at the conference can ask the Conference Convenor to consider including practices from your culture, to invite a respected person from your community or to include other processes if you believe this will lead to a better outcome.
- You have the right to present your views separately to the Conference Convenor if you are not able to attend the conference.



WHERE CAN I GET LEGAL ADVICE?

Call the Legal Aid Hotline for free advice:

Phone: 1800 10 18 10

Weekdays (9am to midnight)

Friday to Sunday and Public Holidays: 24 hrs



WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?

Our website has some more information about youth justice conferences and links to relevant websites.

Go to **www.justice.nsw.gov.au**