

TEEN COURT GUIDELINES FOR JURORS

As a juror, you realize that the defendant has admitted guilt in order to be diverted to Teen Court. Your role is to determine the sentence based on the evidence and mitigating (help defendant's case) circumstances. Every effort should be made to make the sentence fit the offense. **Any attempts by you to influence other jury members' minds or alter a sentence in any way will be handled in the following way: 1st offense - removal from the jury panel; 2nd offense - as a defendant, your paperwork will be sent back to the States Attorney's office for further prosecution, as a volunteer, you will be removed from Teen Court.**

The prosecuting attorney will present all the facts of the case during his/her first presentation based on the police report. The defendant must agree that the police report is accurate and these facts cannot be disputed. If they are disputed, the defendant's diversion to Teen Court is curtailed immediately.

The defense attorney will present the mitigating circumstances of the case based on his/her conversations with the defendant. Your role as a juror is to determine the attitude and believability of the defendant, the reliability of evidence that directly affects the case, factual information, and mitigating circumstances. Opinions rendered by attorneys should not be interpreted as fact.

Your ultimate duty as a juror is to discuss the case between your fellow jurors in order to reach a unanimous decision. You should decide the case for yourself after considering the views of these jurors.

You should not be influenced by the majority of the jurors, if you should strongly believe otherwise. You can consider the sentencing suggestions of the attorneys but you have the right to disregard them entirely.

The Jury is escorted to a deliberation room:

The Foreperson will then lead a group discussion or deliberation regarding the offense.

As a juror, you have the following sentence options:

- * Community Action Points shall be consistent with the guidelines.
- * Restitution must either be directly related to monetary items listed in the police report, or include 2 written appraisals for replacement of damaged property presented at the hearing.
- * **All defendants must sit as a juror from 2 to 6 sessions as determined by the jury.**

- * **All defendants appearing for a Minor Consumption charge, or Possession of Drugs or Paraphernalia must attend the Alcohol/Drug Awareness Class.**
- * **All defendants appearing for Possession/Consumption of Tobacco charge must attend a Tobacco Education Class.**
- * Written essays pertaining to the offense may be requested. When requested, give directions such as topics, how many words, how many pages.
- * Written or oral apologies to victims may be ordered. The written apologies will be reviewed by the Teen Court Coordinator for approval.
- * An explanatory statement on the reason for the sentence will accompany the sentence.

The Jury Foreperson should then inform the Bailiff that the jury is ready to recommend a sentence to the Court.

Upon entering the courtroom:

The Foreperson should have the Court Order form.

Everyone in the courtroom will be standing, in deference to you, the jury.

Be seated. The Foreperson should be seated in the chair closest to the Judge.

When instructed, hand the Court Order form to the Bailiff, who will hand the form to the Judge. The Judge will read over and sign the Order, and then the Bailiff will return it to the Foreperson.

When instructed, the Foreperson will stand and read the sentence aloud.

After reading the sentence, the Court Order should be handed to the Bailiff.

This document was read by me and signed on the _____ day of _____, 20_____

Teen Jury Member

PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR OATH OF CONFIDENTIALITY. THE NAMES AND EVENTS OF THE TEEN COURT HEARINGS ARE NOT TO BE DISCUSSED WITH ANYONE.

Thank you for your participation.