



CYJC

CALGARY YOUTH
JUSTICE COMMITTEES

Giving youth a second chance.

Information for
Youth and Parents.



A CALGARY YOUTH JUSTICE
SOCIETY PROGRAM

cyjc.ca



CALGARY YOUTH JUSTICE COMMITTEES

About Youth Justice Committees

Section 18 of the Youth Criminal Justice Act provides an opportunity for community members to become directly involved in the administration of youth justice by forming Youth Justice Committees (YJCs). A YJC is an alternative to the court system for young people aged 12 up to 18 who are facing a minor charge. Community volunteers work with young people as well as their families, victims, the legal system, and the community, to provide an appropriate and meaningful response.

About YJC Volunteers

It is important to remember that all YJC members are volunteers. All volunteers complete 10 hours of initial training, a Police Information Check, Alberta Child and Family Services Intervention Check and an Oath of Confidentiality.



How the Extrajudicial Sanctions Program Works

In Calgary, YJC's administer the Extrajudicial Sanctions program. Youth can be referred by Police or the Crown Prosecutor's Office. For a youth to be eligible, it must be their first or second offence, be an eligible offence, accept responsibility for their actions and agree to participate.

Three volunteers (YJC Members) will meet with the young person and their parents/guardians. At this meeting, which usually takes about one hour, they will discuss the circumstances of the offence, school background, their family situation, special interests, what consequences have already been administered at home, the parents' concerns, etc.

With input from the youth and parents, YJC Members, will decide the sanctions that must be fulfilled for the youth to be successful. Up to 3 sanctions can be assigned based on the conversation they had with the youth, families and from reading the Police Report. Examples could include: an apology letter, community service hours and referrals to programs.

Why it is Important

Participating in a YJC has many benefits for everyone. YJC volunteers are caring neighbors who want young people to be successful and to make better choices in the future. Both the youth and their Parents/Guardians can explain the situation in their own words, and YJC Volunteers can help to address concerns. Young people have a chance to make amends to the victim and their community and gain access to resources or programs. If the young person is successful and stays out of trouble, their mistake will not hold them back from future employment or post-secondary pursuits.

What to Expect

- ▶ YJC Volunteer receives file and contacts youth and parents/guardians
- ▶ YJC Volunteer contacts victim, where appropriate, to hear their story and how they have been impacted.
- ▶ YJC Volunteers, Youth and parents/guardians meet at opening panel, sanctions are decided and explained to the youth, and the Agreement is signed
- ▶ The youth is given a deadline to complete the sanctions (entire process should take less than 3 months)
- ▶ YJC Volunteers will contact youth regularly to check in on progress
- ▶ YJC Volunteers, Youth and parents/guardians meet for a closing meeting, sanctions are reviewed, agreement is confirmed either successful or unsuccessful
- ▶ Youth attends their pre-determined court date where the Crown/Judge reviews file. If the youth was successful; the charge will be withdrawn in court and the youth criminal record will be automatically expunged after a two-year period and there is no formal youth criminal record
- ▶ If the youth was unsuccessful, the Crown/Judge will review file, sanctions and YJC Members notes to determine if youth should be formally charged, given substantive compliance, or sent back to the Extrajudicial Sanctions program.

Check-list for Youth: Here is what to do!



- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="radio"/> 01. Confirm date, time and place of meeting with YJC | <input type="radio"/> 06. Confirm date, time and place of closing meeting |
| <input type="radio"/> 02. Attend meeting with parents/guardians and receive a copy of the Agreement | <input type="radio"/> 07. Bring a copy of all completed sanctions to closing meeting |
| <input type="radio"/> 03. Check email from YJC Volunteer for information needed to complete sanctions | <input type="radio"/> 08. Sign off on Agreement (either successful or un-successful) |
| <input type="radio"/> 04. Complete sanctions by deadline | <input type="radio"/> 09. Confirm Court date with YJC Member |
| <input type="radio"/> 05. Check in with YJC Volunteer to let them know when sanctions are complete | <input type="radio"/> 10. Attend Court date |
| | <input type="radio"/> 11. EJS File is now closed |

