



CYJC

**CALGARY YOUTH
JUSTICE COMMITTEES**

Giving youth a second chance.

**Information for
Newcomers and
Immigrants.**



**A CALGARY YOUTH JUSTICE
SOCIETY PROGRAM**

cyjc.ca



CALGARY YOUTH JUSTICE COMMITTEES

Valuable information for Newcomer/Immigrant Participants

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. Youth Justice Committees aim to provide the same opportunity and experience for each youth who is referred to a YJC regardless of status, age, gender, background, culture, and religion. YJC volunteers can be extremely flexible when working with newcomer or immigrant youth, we can provide translators as we speak 17 different languages within our large group of volunteers. As well, we can refer youth to a specific cultural or religious Sanction option is requested and appropriate.

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 to participate in YJC's

Although this may be your first encounter as a family with the justice system Youth Justice Committees are designed to support, engage, and help your youth succeed so their youth charges are withdrawn, and they can move forward in life without a youth criminal record. YJC's are not put in place to punish or harm your youth, only to hold them accountable for their actions and provide supports and resources that may assist them moving forward.



Check-list for Youth

Here is what to do!

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

