

ORANGE COUNTY TEEN COURT

Juvenile Justice Center
2000 E. Michigan St., Suite 200
Orlando, Florida 32806
(407) 836-9517

INFORMATION YOU NEED BEFORE YOUR TEEN COURT CONFERENCE

The purpose of Teen Court is to divert less serious cases away from the more formal Juvenile Court. The Teen Court process provides:

1. A forum for juveniles to explain their involvement in the offense;
2. A structured environment in which the words and actions of juveniles who admit their wrongful acts are evaluated and judged by a jury of peers; and
3. The opportunity for juveniles to accept responsibility for their actions by fulfilling the jury's sentence of community service hours and future jury duty assignments, both of which are designed to be constructive and rehabilitative.

Teen Court is based on the premise that youthful offenders will more readily accept responsibility for their actions when judged and sentenced by their peers.

HOW DOES TEEN COURT WORK?

The jury will decide that the teen has to complete community service work at a non-profit agency and participate in jury duty.

The jury can also impose the following sanctions:

- Operation Right Track
- Anger Management / Drug Counseling
- Drug Testing (observed)
- Juvenile Offender Life Training Class
- TASC Assessment (Domestic Violence offenses)
- Curfew
- Essays
- Workbooks
- Pay Restitution (all participants must pay restitution if applicable)

The juvenile will have five weeks to complete the sentence. *If the juvenile doesn't complete the program, the case will be returned to the State Attorney's Office for prosecution. If the juvenile successfully completes all of the sanctions, the original charge will be dismissed.*

REQUIREMENTS FOR JUVENILE REGISTRATION

- Juvenile **must** admit guilt in the offense.
- Juvenile **must** sign a Waiver of Speedy Trial. *This enables the State Attorney's Office to file formal charges beyond the 90 day time frame if the child does not comply with Teen Court sanctions.*