

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

If your child is under eighteen years of age, you should have been invited to attend the Parish Hall Enquiry. You should attend if at all possible, and if not, send a suitable adult.

A “record” from a Parish Hall Enquiry does not count as a Court conviction – but a record is kept by the Police and may be presented to a Court or to certain employers in the future.

If your child is placed on “Voluntary Supervision” by a Centenier, you are welcome to contact the supervising Officer with any queries or concerns you might have from time to time.

Schools are not automatically told when children attend a Parish Hall Enquiry but we usually discuss the children placed under our supervision with their teachers.

If your child is sent to Court, you should attend the Court hearing with your child. The Youth Court is not open to the public and names are not usually published in the media. Should you wish to obtain legal advice for your child prior to this Court appearance you should call the **Legal Aid Office on 0845-800-1066**.

If you have complaints about any of the people involved in dealing with your child’s offences, you can make them to the following people:

- The Chief of Police if your complaint is about States Police Officers.
- The Constable of the Parish which held the Parish Hall Enquiry or the Attorney General (who is responsible for the Honorary Police).
- The Chief Probation Officer.

Jersey Probation and After-Care Service

PO Box 656, 1 Lemprière Street,
St Helier, Jersey JE4 8YT

Tel: 01534 441900

Fax: 01534 441944

Email: probation@gov.je

We can be found around the corner from the new Magistrate’s Court.

Youth Action Team

The Bridge, Le Geyt Road,
St Saviour, Jersey JE2 7NT

Tel: 01534 449104

Parenting Administrator

The Bridge, Le Geyt Road,
St Saviour, Jersey JE2 7NT

Tel: 01534 449481

PARISH HALL ENQUIRIES
(YOUTHS)

What You
Need To Know



Jersey Probation and After-Care Service

INFORMATION FOR YOUTHS ATTENDING A PARISH HALL ENQUIRY

The Enquiry will take place in the Parish where the offences are said to have taken place.

If you are under eighteen years of age, a parent, or guardian who is over eighteen, **must** go to the Parish Hall Enquiry with you.

A Centenier will be in charge of the Enquiry. A Centenier is an elected Police Officer.

There will always be another member of the Honorary Police present such as a Constable's Officer.

There will usually be a Probation Officer at the Enquiry.

The Centenier can only deal with the charges against you if you admit them. If you **do not** admit them, they have to be dealt with by a Court.

The Centenier will usually ask you to tell him about the offences. Your parents or guardians will be asked about you. The Centenier will have been told whether you have committed offences before.

The Centenier can choose between:

- Giving you a "caution" – probably in writing. This is a warning to you to behave well in the future.
- Ordering you to pay a fine.
- Deferring the decision. The Centenier may decide to delay making a decision for a time to see whether you can stay out of trouble. The Centenier may impose certain conditions such as paying compensation or doing some unpaid work for anyone who has been affected by your offence. (This may be done with the Restorative Justice Officer).
- Putting you under the Voluntary Supervision of the Probation Service. Successful completion of Voluntary Supervision will probably result in a "written caution".

- Sending you to the Youth Court (or the Magistrate's Court if you are charged with youths who are older than eighteen).

WHAT BEING PLACED ON VOLUNTARY SUPERVISION MEANS

If you consent to being placed on Voluntary Supervision, this means that you will be given a chance to prove that you can behave and stay out of trouble. You will be able to talk to the Probation Officer about any problems or worries you might have. The Probation Officer will give you advice about how to stay out of trouble. If you misbehave, the Probation Officer can send you back to the Centenier.

As part of the Voluntary Supervision process, you will be asked to:-

- Visit your Probation Officer. This could be at the Probation Service office, the Youth Action Team office, or the Officer may visit you at home.
- Attend and complete one-to-one sessions or programmes.

You will be expected to:-

- Stay out of any further trouble with the Police.
- Be of good behaviour when visiting your Probation Officer.

Throughout the period of supervision, the Probation Officer will liaise with your parents or guardian and may wish to see you together for a number of sessions, possibly with other family members.

It is important that you do all you can to make your time on Voluntary Supervision work.

If you finish it successfully you will avoid a Court appearance and a conviction.

A Court conviction could restrict your travel and employment prospects in the future.

IF YOU ARE SENT TO COURT

If you are sent to Court, it may be a good idea to get an advocate to help you. You can get legal advice by contacting The Acting Batonnier who can explain how to apply for legal aid. **If your parents wish to apply for Legal Aid then they should call the Legal Aid Office on 0845-800-1066.**

The Youth Court is based in the Magistrate's Court building, Union Street (next to Cyril Le Marquand House). The Court is made up of a panel of three people – a Magistrate and two members of the community, one of whom is a woman.

When you first go to Court you may decide to reserve your plea because you wish to see a lawyer.

If you admit the charge, the Probation Service may be asked to write a report on you for your next Court appearance – this is called a Social Enquiry Report. The purpose of this report is to give the Court information about you, so that the Court can decide the best way to sentence you.

There is a separate leaflet produced by the Probation Service which explains what the preparation of a Social Enquiry Report involves. You can ask for this if you wish.