

PROGRAM PROCESS

- 1 The Teen Court coordinator mails out an eligibility letter to the potential Teen Court candidate and parent/guardian if this is the teen's first offense.
- 2 The juvenile offender chooses Teen Court, takes full responsibility for their involvement in the incident and has their parent/guardian call the Teen Court coordinator to set a time to go over paperwork.
- 3 Participant and parent/guardian come to the court to fill out paperwork and pay a \$50 deferred prosecution fee. The teen is then scheduled for a panel hearing.
- 4 Participant and parent/guardian appear for panel hearing, participant is sworn in, the panel goes over the case with the teen, asks questions about the incident as well as school and home life. Participant leaves the room and the panel speaks to the parent.
- 5 Panel leaves the room to deliberate on a sentence. Panel re-enters and participant and parent/guardian are present for sentencing.
- 6 Participant and parent/guardian go to court window to finalize paperwork.
- 7 Participant has 90 days from the panel hearing to meet all of the sentencing requirements. If a class, letter, or essay is required; original documents must be returned to the court no later than the 90 day review date.
- 8 Participant may be sentenced to sit on a panel within the deferred prosecution period.
- 9 If participant completes their sentence and does not have any other violations, their case is dismissed after the deferred prosecution date.
- 10 If participant fails to comply with any portion of the process the deferred prosecution is revoked, and the teen is sent back to the municipal court judge.

CONTACT TEEN COURT

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Centennial, CO 80112

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Centennial, CO 80112



CITY OF CENTENNIAL | MUNICIPAL COURT

TEEN COURT



Information Brochure

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Teen Court is a community-based juvenile intervention/prevention program offering an alternative to a regular court hearing.

Our program only accepts juvenile offenders with first-time, nonviolent charges. These offenders are seen by trained youth volunteers who act as peer mentors. Our volunteers conduct peer panels with the offender before they determine an appropriate sentence for the offender. This process holds the juvenile offender accountable for their actions and promotes long-term behavioral changes.

Learn more at
centennialco.gov/youthcommission

Is Teen Court right for you?

TEEN COURT may be right for you if you want to:

- Be sentenced by a panel of your peers, rather than by an adult judge
- Avoid a juvenile conviction on your record
- Have the opportunity to tell your side of the story to a panel of your peers

You should consider that TEEN COURT:

- Asks you to return to be sentenced on a separate evening a few weeks after your original court date
- Requires a parent/legal guardian appear with you
- Gives sentences that may be lighter or harsher than the one given by the judge
- Necessitates that you give up your right to have an adult attorney represent you

SENTENCING INFORMATION

Sentences are constructed by the peer panel to fit the specific participant and their offense. Mandatory sentences may include coming back to sit on at least one peer panel within six months of the sentence.

CLASSES

Panels can sentence the participant to attend a 1-day educational class that is related to his/her offense. These classes include Discovering Better Choices and Teens and Tobacco classes. Classes must be completed within a certain time frame, require the original certificate and a 300-word essay to be brought back to the court.

ESSAYS & APOLOGY LETTERS

The participant may be asked to write letters of apology or a topic-specific essay.

OTHER

Any other appropriate learning experience may be implemented as part of a sentence.