

# **TEEN COURT – DAY-OF INSTRUCTIONS FOR YOUTH /PARENTS OR GUARDIANS.**

- You are to arrive for your Teen Court hearing between 4:30pm – 4:50pm accompanied by your parent(s) or guardian(s), on the hearing date scheduled by the Teen Court Coordinator.
- Please dress appropriately – neat and clean professional type clothes are required. You do not have to wear jackets, ties or dresses. PLEASE DO NOT wear shorts crop tops, bare feet, torn jeans or T-shirts with inappropriate messages. Earrings will not be allowed for guys.
- Please check in with the Teen Court Coordinator or the Bailiff who will direct you to where you need to go.
- DO NOT talk to juror nor their parents / guardians. This could create a conflict of interest and result in disqualification for you and /or the juror. Parents / guardians also should not communicate with jurors nor their parents / guardians.
- Do not bring cell phones or mobile devices. A parent / guardian may bring one to use in case of an emergency, but it must be silenced during court.
- Please eat prior to court as it may take some time to be called into the court room. Vending machines are available on the ground floor. If you purchase an item there, you must eat or drink it at the machine, then return to the second floor.
- Restrooms and a water fountain are available at the court building.
- The courtroom and / or hallway waiting area may be cold or warm. Please prepare by bringing a light sweater; just in case.
- The waiting area benches are not particularly comfortable. You may have a wait. Feel free to bring a sweater or something to sit on.
- Bring homework or something to read or write (including parents / guardians) if you would like something to during your wait.
- If you have to run to your car, or if you need to get air, you must alert the Coordinator so you don't lose your place in line. Please make your run fast. After 5:00 PM, you must exit and enter through the ground floor / east door by the police officer security desk (the main doors lock at 5:00 PM).
- Your parent (s) or guardian (s) will be seated in the front row of the courtroom and will be asked to give their names to the Judge and may be called to testify.
- After approval of the jury, the juvenile will be sworn in the Teen Court by the Judge and seated in the witness box and questioned by the Prosecuting Attorney, Defense Attorney, Jurors (if there are any questions) and the Judge if there is need for clarification. Any other witnesses and or parent (s) or guardian (s) can be called for questioning. The Teen Court Judge will then give final instructions to the jury who will then go to the Jury Room to deliberate and decide on the juvenile's sentence.
- The juvenile and parent (s) / guardian (s) will then go to a separate area to await the jury verdict. The bailiff will summon the juvenile and parent (s) / guardian (s) back into the courtroom when the jury returns with a sentence in your hearing.
- The parent (s) / guardian (s) is again seated. The juvenile's name will be called and he/she will stand and face the jury with the Teen Court Coordinator or her Assistant as the sentence is being read.
- If you have any questions about any of these procedures, please do not hesitate to contact the Teen Court Coordinator as soon as possible.