

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

How our program benefits everyone:

The Teen Court process holds youth accountable, increases decision-making skills, and provides a hands-on experience in the judicial system.

It helps youth listen effectively, analyze information fairly, manage and resolve conflict.

It improves the capacity of youth to become responsible and productive citizens.

It is a cost effective approach to juvenile justice.

20+ years of follow-up indicates that 87% of youth in our Lake County Teen Court do not get in trouble again.

Teen Court is endorsed by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention.

Young people are capable and want to contribute to their communities.

Teen Court assists youth in becoming more responsible and productive citizens.

CONNECT WITH US

Program Coordinators:

Sandra Porter-Phillips – Crown Point Court
& Porter Co. Court
Gavin Mariano – Hammond Court

- Crisis Center, Inc.
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Please contact us if you have any questions.



TEEN COURT

Peer Justice

Youth Empowerment

Delinquency Prevention

Alternative Sentencing

A PROGRAM OF THE
CRISIS CENTER, INC.





Teen Court capitalizes on peer influence and builds skills in listening, problem solving, communication, and conflict resolution

TEEN COURT IS A CHOICE, AND AN OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUTH, AGES 10-18, WHO HAVE COMMITTED AN OFFENSE THAT HAS BROUGHT THEM TO THE ATTENTION OF POLICE, SCHOOL OR JUVENILE AUTHORITIES.

- It is a rapid response to inappropriate behavior
- It provides an alternative to traditional juvenile sanctions.
- It helps youth realize accountability for unlawful actions.
- It restores self-esteem, helps youth understand the legal process and emphasizes citizen responsibility.
- Sanctions fit the offense.
- Youth understand and accept responsibility for their behavior.

Teen Court is endorsed by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention, and Indiana Youth Services Association.

How Does It Work

- Youth are referred by area police departments, schools or others for offenses that they have admitted committing.
- They are given an opportunity to appear before Teen Court.
- Parents/Guardians and youth must attend an interview prior to the Teen Court appearance and sign agreements.
- A date is set for the Teen Court hearing.
- Teen Court is held in an actual courtroom. There is a one-time, low court fee.
- An attorney serves as judge, while youth, who may be volunteers or former respondents, serve as jurors/officers of the court. They listen to the facts and determine an appropriate sentence.
- Sentencing is meaningful and fair. It may include community service, restitution, apology letters, essays and presentations.
- Youth are expected to serve, for a determined number of times, on a Teen Court jury.