



Ministry
of Justice

Youth Justice Charter

What happens after I leave custody?





Whether you stay in **custody** as part of your **sentence** or on **remand**, there should be a plan in place for your release to support you for life after custody. This is called resettlement or transitioning.

Resettlement planning should begin as soon as you enter custody and will involve lots of people, including you, your family, your Youth Justice Service (YJS) **case manager**, your **social worker**, your **personal advisor** and a **resettlement worker** based in custody (although they may be called something different).

If you have been sentenced to custody, you will usually spend some of your sentence on **supervision** or **licence** in the community. This means you will have to follow certain rules like living at a certain address and staying in contact with your YJS case manager. You could go back to custody if you break the rules of your supervision or licence. The resettlement standards below explain how you should be treated when you leave custody.

These standards form part of the Youth Justice Charter. To find out more, search 'Youth Justice Charter'. You can also find out about what happens if you are stopped by the police, going to court, working with Youth Justice Services and going to custody. There is also a youth justice journey map to show the different stages of the youth justice system.

If you need help understanding these standards, you can ask someone you trust to go through them with you. We have used some words that you might not understand. We have put these words in bold. We have explained what they mean at the end in a list called 'difficult words'.

Resettlement
standard

1

**Planning for my life after custody
will begin straightaway and continue
throughout my time in custody.**

- You will have an initial **resettlement planning** meeting in the first 10 days of entering **custody**.
- You should then have regular follow-up meetings to discuss what happens when you are released. Your **resettlement worker** should make sure you know when your next meeting will be.
- Your YJS **case manager**, your resettlement worker, your **social worker** and your **personal advisor** (if you have one) should be at these meetings. Your parents or carers should also be invited to join, as well as other people like health workers.
- In these meetings, you will agree a plan for when you are released. The plan should include any support you may need to move on with your life, including your education or career goals, your healthcare needs and where you will live. This may be called a resettlement plan or a **sentence plan**.
- You will also discuss whether you will be able to leave custody to go on a short outing or take part in an activity in the community to help you prepare for your release. This might be called **release on temporary licence** or **mobility**. It is only available if you are in custody on a sentence, not if you are in custody on **remand**. Decisions will always consider any risks.

Resettlement
standard

2

I will be involved in decisions about my release and my views will be listened to and taken seriously.

- In your **resettlement planning** meetings, your goals and hopes for the future will be listened to and should help shape plans for your time in **custody** and release.
- Your YJS **case manager** and **resettlement worker** will tell you about any decisions for your release. They will make sure that others supporting you (like your family, **social worker** or **personal advisor**) are involved.

Resettlement
standard

3

The people who support me will understand my story and work together to help me.

- There may be lots of people involved in supporting you, but you should work directly with just a few people who you know and trust.
- The people supporting you should find out about your life, any problems you face and the help you may need.
- The people supporting you will regularly speak with each other to share information to help make plans for your life after release. You should not have to keep telling your story to new people or be forced to go to lots of different meetings.

Resettlement
standard

4

There will be a plan in place for my learning after I am released.

- Planning for your learning while you are in **custody** should include what will happen after you are released.
- The professionals in custody who are responsible for your learning should consider your interests and ambitions and any support you may need to achieve them.
- If you are eligible for **release on temporary licence or mobility**, you may be able to go on a short visit to **open days** at schools or colleges, go on a course, or go to a job interview.



Resettlement
standard

5

I should know where I will be living in good time before I am released, and this should be a safe and suitable place.

- Planning for where you will live when you leave **custody** should begin straightaway. Your YJS **case manager** should aim to confirm where you are living at least six weeks before your release.
- If it is not possible to go back to where you lived before, you will be helped to find somewhere which is safe, comfortable and meets your needs.
- Your views will be listened to and everyone should do their best to find you somewhere you are happy to live.
- Your YJS case manager (and **social worker** or **personal advisor** if you have one) should visit your accommodation before you move in to make sure it is safe and suitable.
- If you are eligible for **release on temporary licence or mobility**, you might also be able to visit your accommodation before you are released.

Resettlement
standard

6

I will be helped to access ongoing health care when I leave custody, for as long as I need it.

- Planning for your release will include making sure you continue to receive any health or medical care you need when you leave **custody**.
- The health team in custody should organise this for you and make sure you know where to go for medical treatment and support.
- They should also help you register with a doctor and pass on information about your health needs to anyone who needs to know (with your permission).
- You should be given any medications you need before you leave custody so you don't run out.

Resettlement
standard

7

Any rules I must follow on release
will be fair and achievable.

- Your YJS **case manager** will keep in touch with you after release and will explain where, when and how often you will be expected to meet.
- They will explain any things you need to do as part of your **licence** or any **supervision** conditions you must follow until your **sentence** ends.
- You should have a chance to talk about any challenges or worries you may have, and what support you might need to follow the conditions.

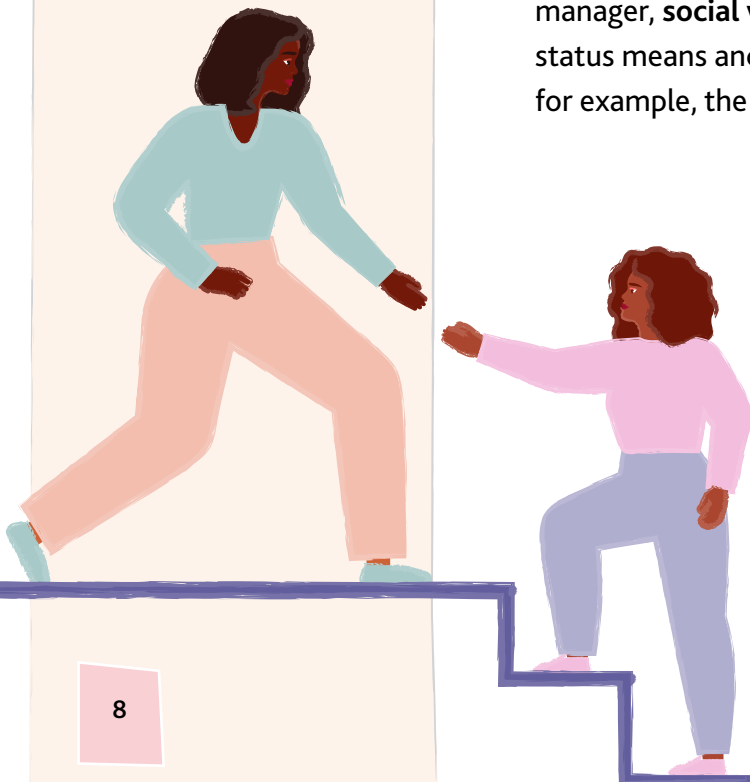


Resettlement
standard

8

I will have high-quality support in the community to help me readjust and to rebuild my life.

- On the day of your release, you will be met by your YJS **case manager** or someone else you know and trust who is familiar with your **resettlement plan**. They should take you to where you will be living.
- Your YJS case manager should keep working closely with other people after your release to give you the support you need to lead a stable and crime-free life.
- They will also explain what having a criminal record means for you and when you might need to tell potential employers or **education providers** about it.
- They will regularly check in on how things are going and help you with any issues you might have.
- If you are at least 16 years old and have been on **remand** for 13 weeks or more since you were 14 years old, you will have care leaver status at the end of your remand. When leaving **custody**, your YJS case manager, **social worker** or **personal advisor** will tell you what this status means and what additional support will be available to you – for example, the services you can access.



Resettlement
standard

9

I will be supported to stay safe
after I leave custody.

- Your YJS **case manager** has a responsibility to help keep you safe. They will listen to any concerns you have about your safety and will handle them in the right way.
- If your living arrangements become unsafe at any time, your YJS case manager should help you find somewhere else to stay.
- If there is a big threat to your safety, you may be moved for protection. If this happens, your YJS case manager will make sure you have the right support in place in your new home and help manage this move.
- If you have been released from **custody** following your **remand** without being found guilty, your YJS case manager will not be responsible for you. Your **local authority** will make sure you have somewhere safe to go.



Resettlement
standard
10

I will be supported through any change in my supervision. This will be carefully planned with my best interests in mind.

- If you turn 18 before or shortly after leaving custody, your YJS **case manager** will help you with the move to **adult probation services**. There should be a plan in place to make this transition as smooth as possible, so you continue to have the support you need.
- You might be able to keep getting help from your YJS team even after you turn 18. This will be decided based on your individual needs and circumstances.



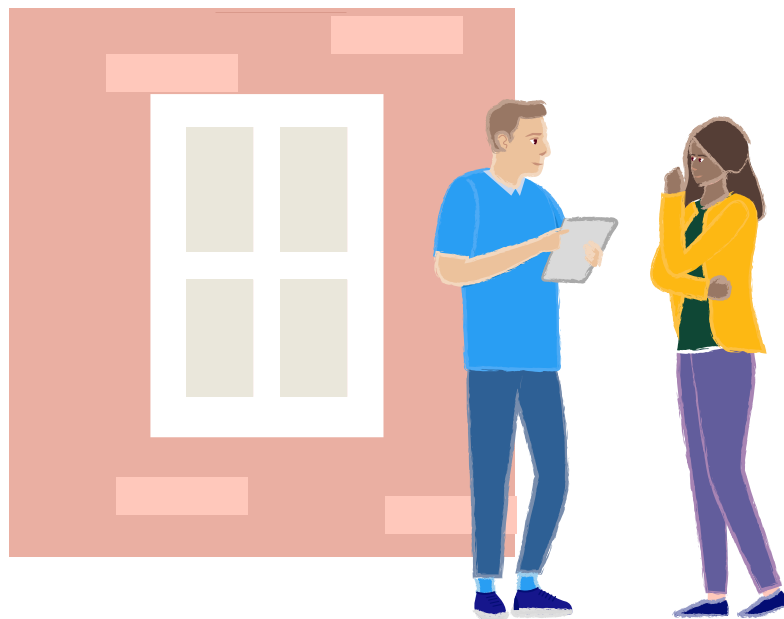


What can I do if these standards are not met?

If you think these standards have not been met, you should tell the person named in the standard, or any adult who supports you can tell them for you. If you do not want to do this or are unhappy with the response you get, you can make a complaint.

There are different ways to complain and you can choose which way you prefer.

- Speak to your YJS **case manager**.
- Ask to speak to the manager of your YJS.
- Speak to your **social worker, personal advisor or independent reviewing officer** if you have one.
- Contact your **local authority** complaints department.
- Call the **Children's Commissioner's** advice line. If you are in England, the number is **0800 528 0731**, or you can [contact them on their website](#). If you are in Wales, the number is **0808 801 1000**, or you can [contact them on their website](#).
- You can [complain about your lawyer to the Solicitors Regulation Authority](#).



Difficult words

We've used some words in this charter that you might not understand. We've listed them below and explained what they mean. These explanations are to help you understand this charter. They are not legal definitions.

Adult probation service: People who work for the probation service are responsible for supervising anyone aged 18 and over who has been released from custody or who has been given a community sentence. They are called probation workers.

Case manager: The Youth Justice Service case manager is your main point of contact from your local Youth Justice Service. Your case manager will work with you, your family and other professionals to understand your situation and give the support you need. They will make a plan to support you and help prevent you from committing a crime in the future.

Children's Commissioner: There is a Children's Commissioner for England and a Children's Commissioner for Wales. They protect the rights of children and stand up for your views and interests. They can give you support and advice.

Community sentence: This is a type of sentence where you are free to go home but you must follow certain rules and do certain things for a set amount of time. There are two types of community sentence, a Referral Order and a Youth Rehabilitation Order. If you receive a Referral Order, you will meet with a community panel who will help oversee your order.

Custody: Custody can mean a locked room in a police station, a locked room in court, or at the place where you stay if you are sentenced to custody (for adults this place is called a prison).

Education providers: This could be a school, college or university.

Independent reviewing officer: This is someone who leads reviews for 'looked after children'. Their main job is to make sure that your care plan meets your needs. They are separate from your social worker.

Licence: If you are 'on licence' or 'released on licence', it means you will complete the rest of your sentence in the community after you have spent time in custody. When you are on licence, you must stick to certain rules and you will be supervised by your Youth Justice Service case manager. If you don't stick to the rules, you might have to go back into custody. Sometimes a licence is called a 'notice of supervision'.

Local authority: This is another name for the local council or local government. They run services like schools, sports centres, social services and Youth Justice Services.

Mobility: This means you are allowed to leave custody for a short time. It might also be called release on temporary licence.

Open day: This is when you can visit a school or college to see what it is like and find out what courses it teaches.

Personal advisor: This is someone who offers advice, support and information to young people leaving care. They will work alongside your social worker to help you prepare for adulthood and will continue to support you once you've turned 18.

Release on temporary licence: This means you are able to leave custody for a short time. It might also be called mobility.

Remand: If you are charged with an offence and refused bail, you will be remanded. This means the judge or magistrate decides that you should stay in local authority accommodation or youth secure accommodation. The decision is made at a remand hearing.

Resettlement plan: This is a plan for when you are released from custody. It should include any support you may need to move on with your life. This might also be called a sentence plan.

Resettlement worker: This is someone who will work with you, your Youth Justice Service case manager, your social worker and your personal advisor (if you have one) to help you plan for leaving custody. This could include your health needs, your education or employment, and where you will live.

Sentence: A judge or magistrate can give you a sentence if you are guilty of committing an offence. A sentence is an order from the court that you must follow. There are different types of sentences. All sentences have certain requirements you must follow but some involve going to custody (custodial sentences) whereas others (community sentences) mean you can stay at home. A 'sentencing hearing' is when the court decides what your sentence will be.

Social worker: This is someone from your local authority who is trained to support children and their families who may be having difficulties.

Supervision: This is when you meet with your Youth Justice Service case manager. This might be as part of your bail conditions or as part of your sentence. You must go to these meetings.



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