



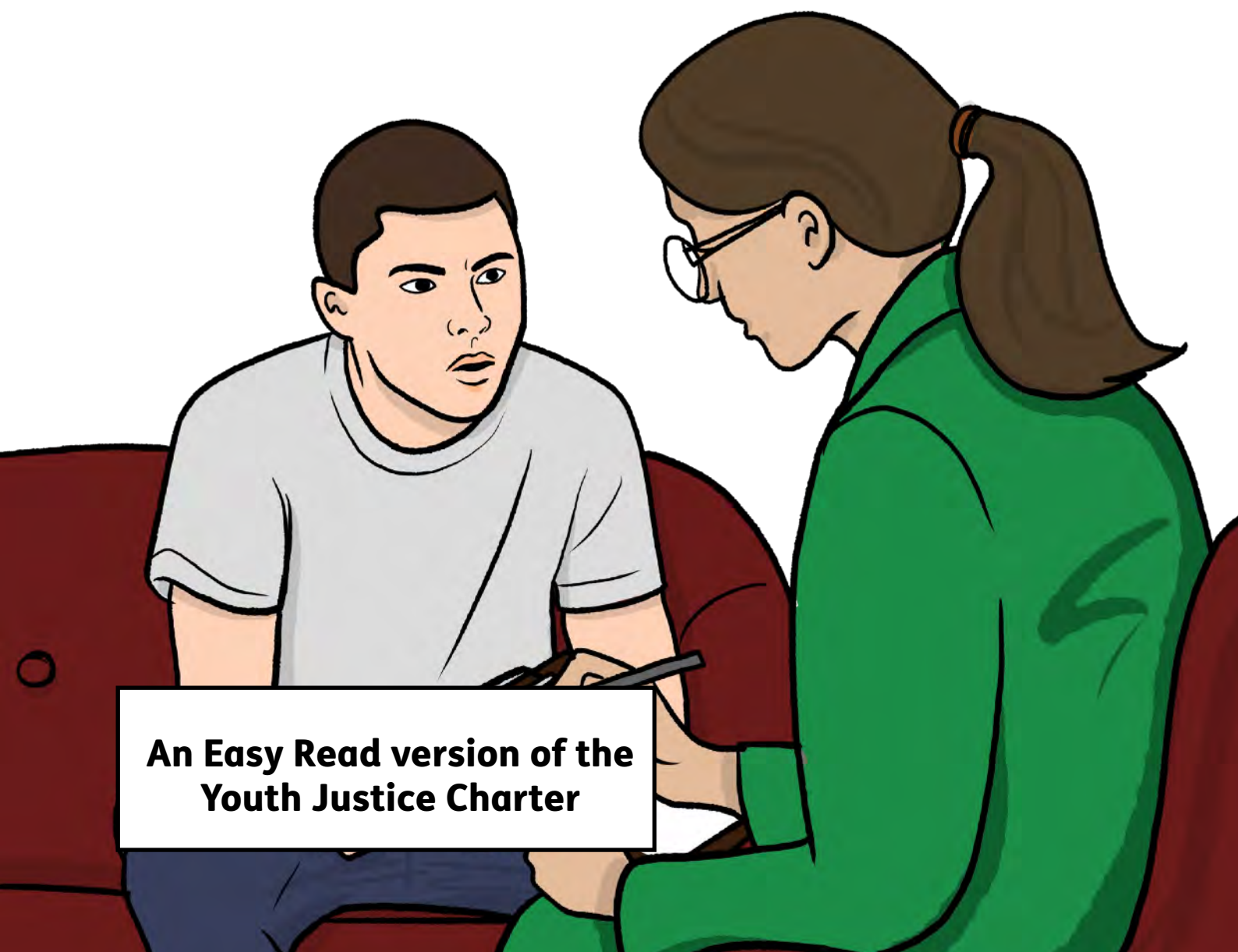
Ministry
of Justice



Easy
Read

The Youth Justice Charter

Part 3: Being supported by Youth Justice Services



An Easy Read version of the
Youth Justice Charter

Easy Read



This is an Easy Read version of some information. It may not include all of the information but it will tell you about the important parts.



This Easy Read booklet uses easier words and pictures. Some people may still want help to read it.



Some words are in **bold** - this means the writing is thicker and darker. These are important words in the booklet.



Sometimes if a bold word is hard to understand, we will explain what it means.



[Blue and underlined](#) words show links to websites and email addresses. You can click on these links on a computer.

What is in this booklet

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The youth justice system



If you are a child aged 10 to 17 years old and break the law, you might have contact with the **youth justice system**.



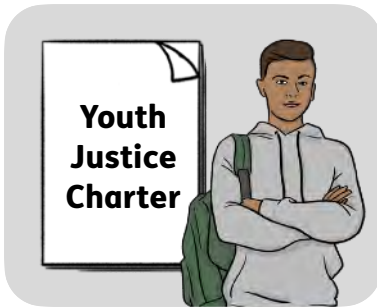
The **youth justice system** is the police, courts, youth justice services and **custody services**.



The law is a set of rules that must be followed to keep people safe and protect people's property.

Breaking the law is also called **offending**, or **committing a crime**.

The Youth Justice Charter



The Youth Justice Charter tells you about your rights if you are a child and break the law.



All children have **rights**. You still have these rights, even if you have broken the law.

Rights are basic things that every person should have. Like the right to be safe, the right to education, the right to be respected.



The Youth Justice Charter calls them **standards**.

The standards explain how you should be treated by the different people and organisations you have contact with.

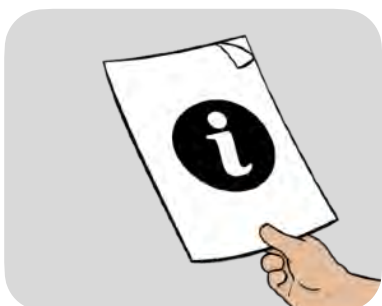
In all parts of the youth justice system you have the right to:



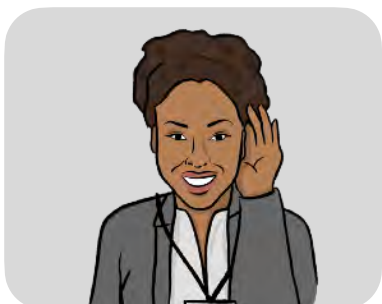
- Be treated fairly.



- Have help with the law, from someone who is on your side.



- Have information to help and support you.



- Be listened to and have what you think taken seriously.

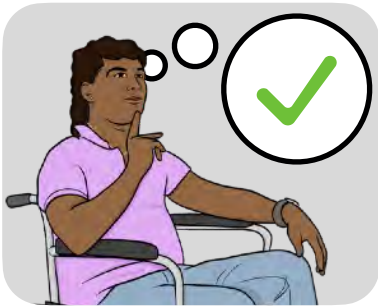


- Be healthy and kept safe.



In all parts of the youth justice system you also have the right to:

- Be able to learn and grow.

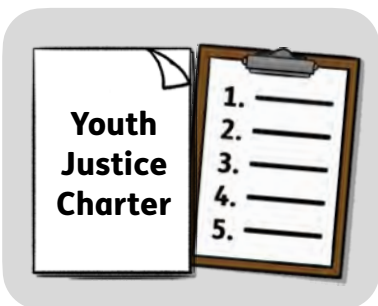


- Be able to make good choices for the future no matter what has happened in the past.



You also have the right to complain if you do not think these standards have been met.

This Charter tells you how to do that.

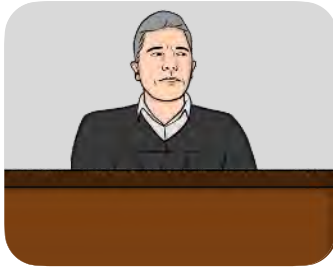


There are five parts of the Charter and each part has a booklet.



The booklets tell you about the standards when you are:

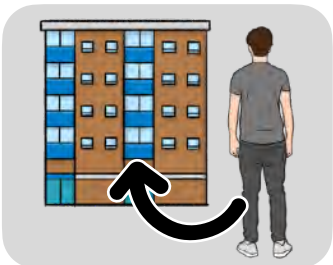
- Stopped by the police.



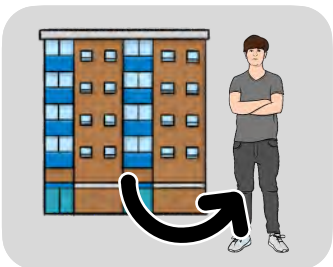
- Going to court.



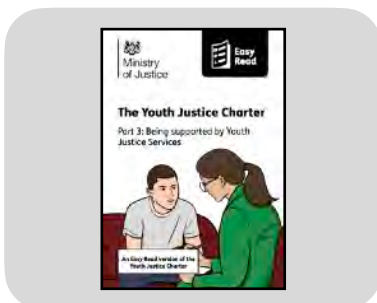
- Being supported by youth justice services.



- Going into youth custody.



- Leaving youth custody.



This booklet tells you about going to court.

About the Youth Justice Service



The Youth Justice Service is sometimes called Youth Offending Teams, or YOTs.

This booklet tells you what the YJS team should do if the court has given you:



- **Bail.**
- **Remand in the community.**
- **A community sentence.**



Bail is when you are released while the police look into whether you committed a crime. When you are on bail you must return to the police station or court when you are told to, if you do not you are committing a crime.

Remand in the community can mean living:



- At home.



- With someone else from your family.



- In foster care.



- In a children's home.



You usually have to follow rules during this time. These might be called **conditions**.



A **community sentence** means you can go home but you must follow certain rules for a set amount of time.

You may also have help from a YJS team if:



- You have come into contact with the police.



- You have been given an **out of court disposal**.

The police might give you an **out of court disposal** if they think you have broken the law. It means you do not have to go to court. There are different out of court disposals with different rules.



- If you are on bail waiting to go to court.



You might meet with people from the YJS team about different things, but you will have one **Case Manager** who will be the main person you talk to.

Your Case Manager will:



- Get to know you and try to understand more about you.



- Make a plan with you and other professionals to support you.



The YJS standards below explain how you should be treated by your YJS team.

1. You will know who your Case Manager is and how to get in touch with them.



Your Case Manager will tell you when and where to meet them and how to contact them.

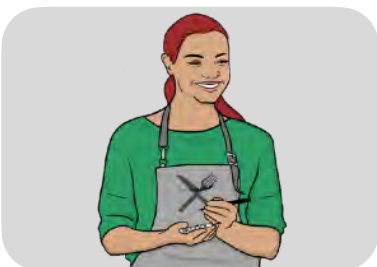


Your Case Manager will want to see you. This might be:

- At your home, or



- At their office, or



- Somewhere else, like at a café.



They might message you or phone you as well.

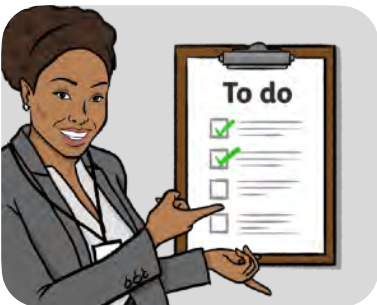
2. You will be given help to understand the role of the YJS team and how you will work with them.

Your Case Manager will explain to you and your parent or carer:

- Why they are involved.



- What will happen while they are working with you.



Your Case Manager will explain to you:

- The **compulsory requirements** - these are things that you must do.

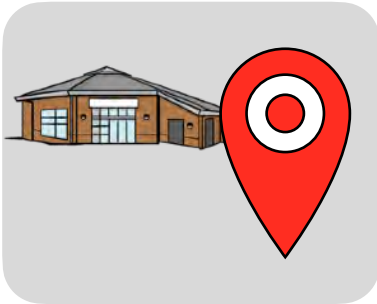


- The **voluntary requirements** - these are things that you can choose to do or not do.





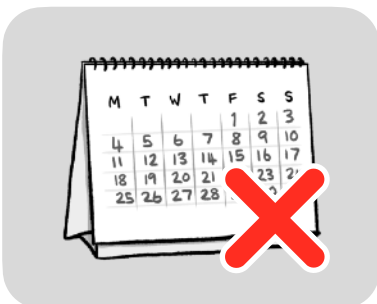
Your Case Manager will see you on agreed days and times. This is called **supervision**.



They will help you get to appointments.



You should tell your Case Manager if you are worried about how to pay for your travel.



Your Case Manager will explain what will happen if you:

- Do not attend your appointments.



- Do not do the things the court or police have told you to do.



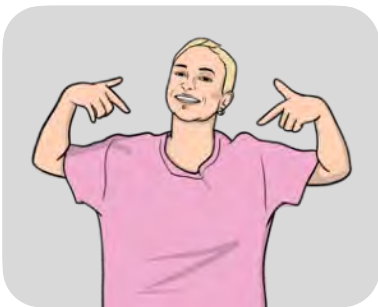
This could be:

- Being contacted again by the police.



- Going back to court.

3. Your Case Manager should understand your individual needs and should help other people to understand them too.



Your Case Manager will:

- Get to know you.



- Ask you lots of questions about yourself.



Your Case Manager might ask other people to help you.



Your Case Manager will want to visit you at home to:

- Understand more about you.



- Meet your parents or carers.



They will want to know about:

- You and your life.



- What has happened and why.

Your Case Manager will also want to know about:



- What and who is important in your life.



- What you are good at doing and like to do.



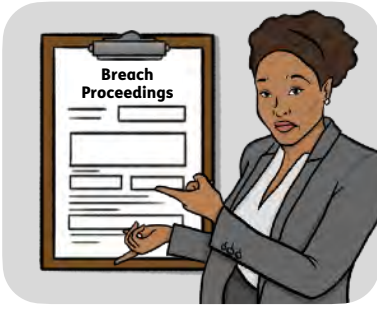
- If you have any hobbies or interests.



The Case Manager will encourage you to share your story in your own way. That could be through drawing, writing or just talking.



Your Case Manager will write a report to help the court make decisions about your future.



If you do not follow the rules you have been given as part of your bail or court order, then your Case Manager can start **breach proceedings**.

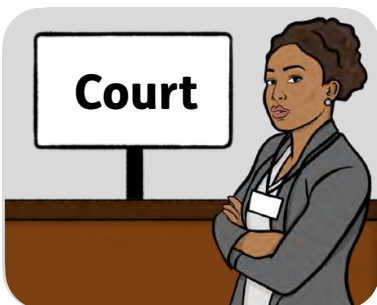


Breach proceedings is an official process, where your Case Manager will ask:

- What has happened.



- Why it happened.



They will support you if you need to go back to court.

4. You will be involved in making a plan to help you achieve future goals.



Your Case Manager will make a plan to support you.



This plan is meant to give you the best possible chance to:

- Do what you want to do with your life.
- Help you not break the law in the future.



Your Case Manager will share the plan with you.



The plan might be given to you:

- Written down.



- As pictures.



- As something you can listen to.



You can ask your Case Manager to change the plan if any part of it is not working for you.



The Case Manager will help you understand the plan and answer any questions you might have.



Your Case Manager will also explain:

- What having a criminal record means for you.



- When you might need to tell people about it if you go for a job or want to go to college.



Your parents or carers will be asked to get involved in deciding the plan.

5. You will be given help to understand what happens at the end of your court order.



Your Case Manager will talk to you about what help and support you need to stop breaking the law again.



A **court order** is when a judge or magistrate says that you must do something.

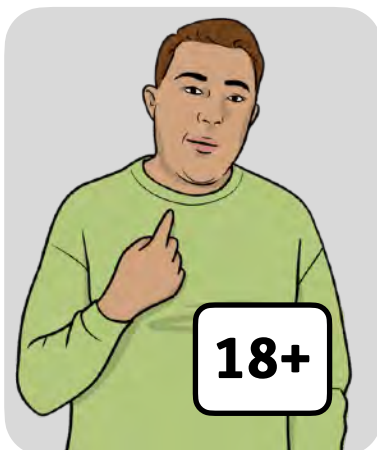


They may recommend getting help from other organisations or services such as a youth support mentor.



If you agree to what they suggest, they will arrange this for you.

6. If you will be 18 soon, your Case Manager will organise your move to the adult probation service.



If you are nearly 18 years old but have not completed your sentence or time on bail or remand, you might have to move to the **adult probation service**.

The **adult probation service** works with people over 18 who have been found guilty by a court.

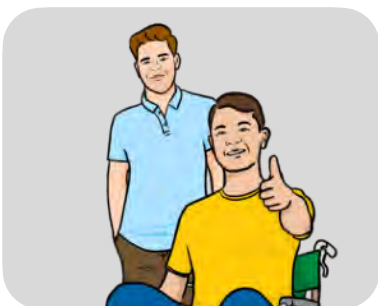


Changing to the adult probation service will be planned carefully and someone will talk to you about it.



Your Case Manager will be sharing important information about you with the probation worker, like:

- Your healthcare needs.
- If you have any special educational needs.
- Any other support you may need.



This will mean they understand all about you and what you need help with.



You will be able to meet your new probation worker before the change so that you can get to know them.

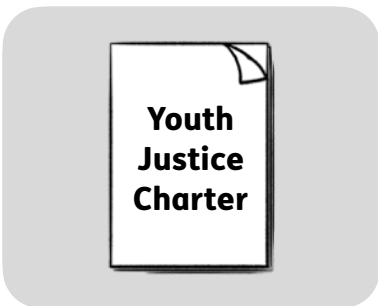
If you want to complain



If you think someone has not followed the standards, you should tell them.



If you do not want to tell them, or are not happy with what they say, you or your parents or carers can make a complaint.



There is information about how to do this in the Youth Justice Charter, in the part called "What to do if these standards have not been met".



To find out more, search the internet for "youth justice charter".

Find out more



You can look at our website here:
[www.gov.uk/government/
organisations/ministry-of-justice](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ministry-of-justice)

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