



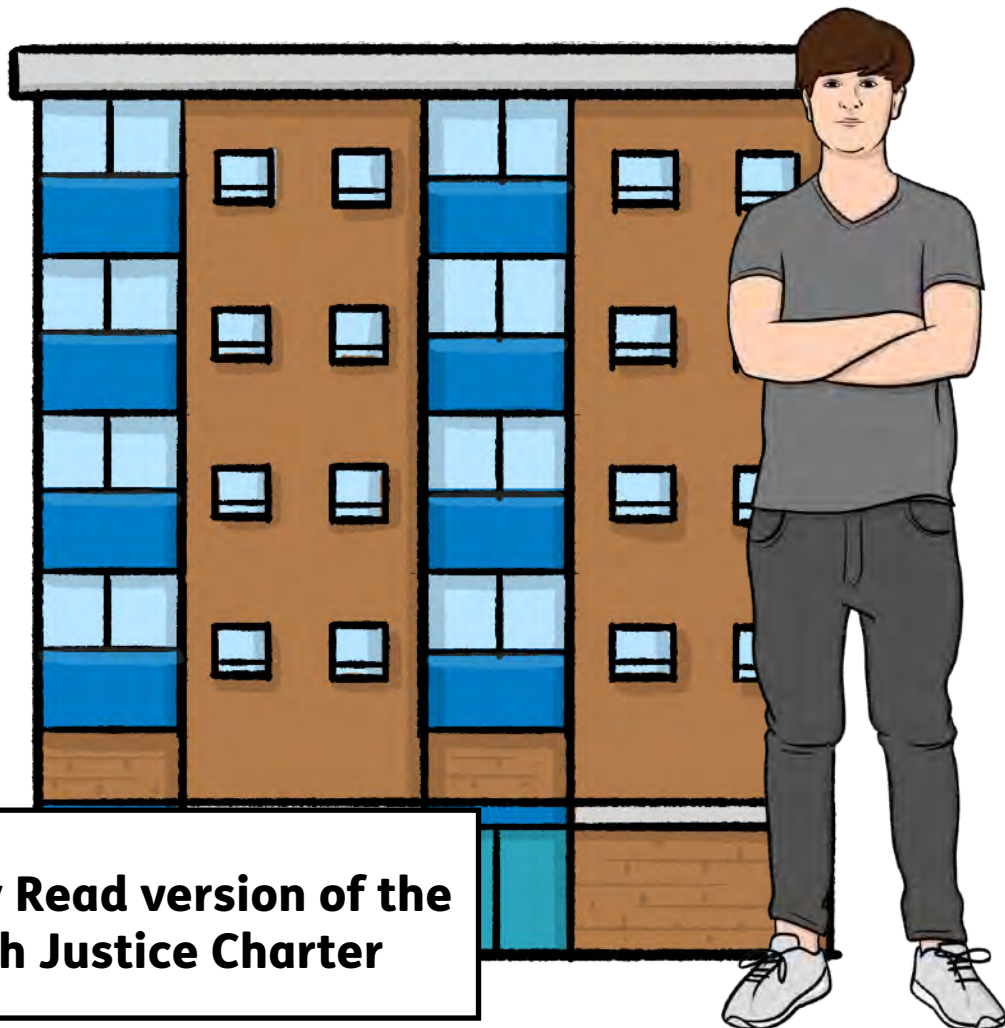
Ministry
of Justice



Easy
Read

The Youth Justice Charter

Part 5: What happens when you
leave youth custody



An Easy Read version of the
Youth Justice Charter

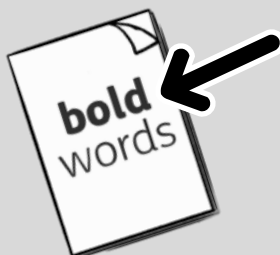
Easy Read



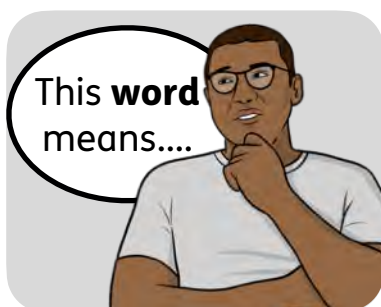
This is an Easy Read version of some information. It may not include all of the information but it will tell you about the important parts.



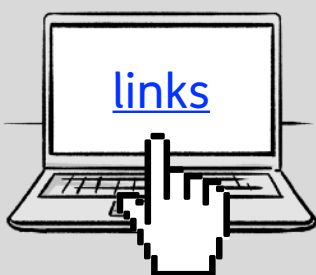
This Easy Read booklet uses easier words and pictures. Some people may still want help to read it.



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**.



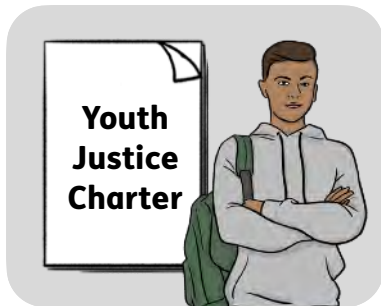
The **youth justice system** is the police, courts, youth justice services and **custody** services.



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.

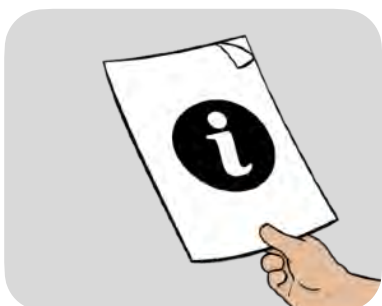
In all parts of the youth justice system you have the right to:



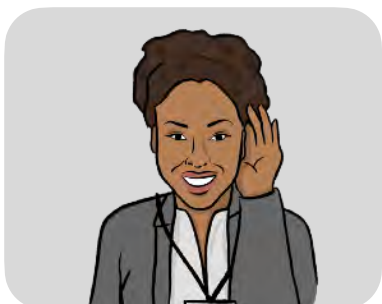
- Be treated fairly.



- 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.

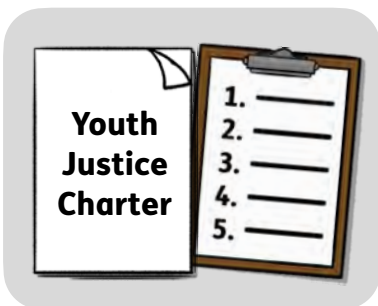


- Be able to make good choices for the future no matter what has happened in the past.



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.

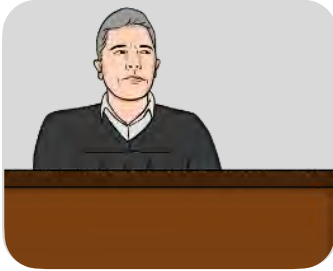


There are five parts of the Charter and each part has a booklet.



The booklets tell you about the standards when you are:

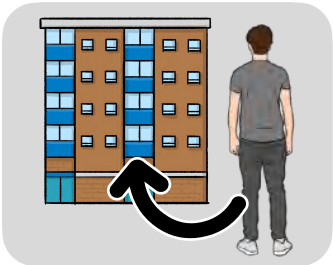
- Stopped by the police.



- Going to court.



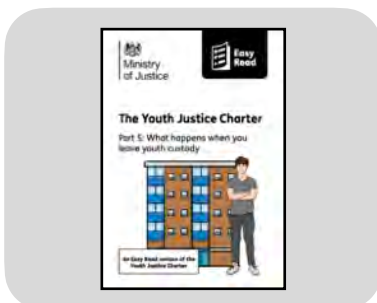
- Being supported by youth justice services.



- Going into youth custody.

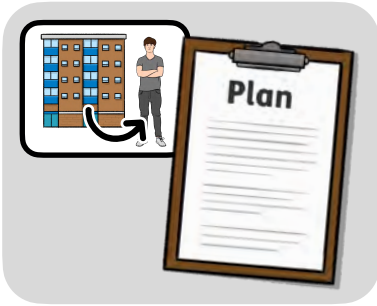


- Leaving youth custody.



This booklet tells you about leaving youth custody.

After you have been in youth custody

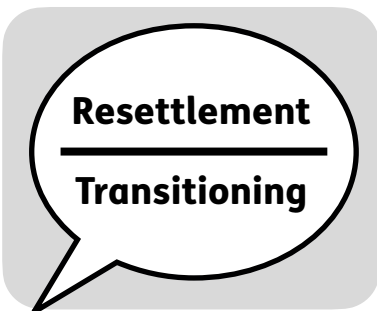


There should be a plan in place for your **release**.

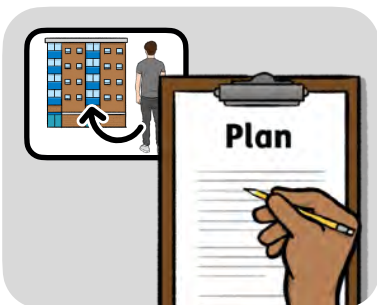
Release means you are allowed to leave youth custody.



You should be supported for life after custody.



This is called **resettlement** or **transitioning**.



Resettlement planning should begin as soon as you enter custody.

Resettlement planning will involve lots of people, like:



- You and your family.



- Your Youth Justice Service (YJS) Case Manager.



- Your social worker or personal advisor.



- A member of staff in custody who will help, called a **resettlement worker**.



If you have been sentenced to custody, you will usually spend some of your sentence out of custody. This is called **supervision** or **licence**.

This means you will have to follow some rules, like:



- Living at one address, and



- Staying in contact with your YJS Case Manager.



You might be sent back to custody if you break the rules.



The resettlement standards below tell you how you should be treated when you leave custody.

1. Planning for your life after custody will begin straight away and continue throughout your time in custody.



You will have an initial resettlement planning meeting in the first 10 days of being in custody.



You should then have regular meetings to discuss what happens when you are released.



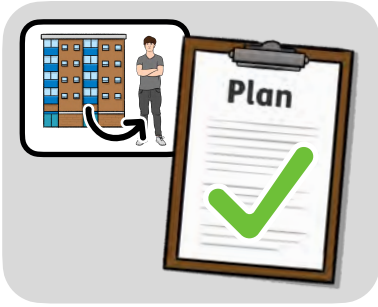
Your resettlement worker should make sure you know when your next meeting will be.



Your YJS Case Manager, your resettlement worker and your social worker or personal advisor should be at the meetings.



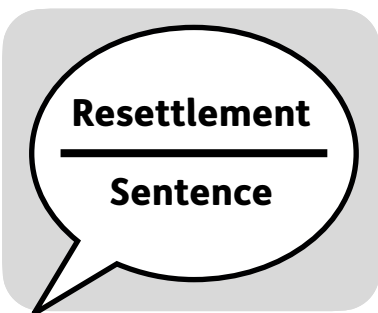
Your parents or carers should also be invited to the meetings.



At these meetings, everyone should agree a plan for when you are released.



This might include help with education, work, healthcare or where you might live.



This might be called a **resettlement plan** or a **sentence plan**.



The plan should include everything about your life after release, like:

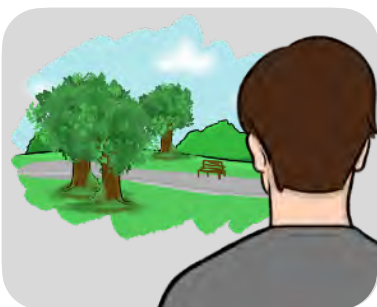
- What you want to do with your life.



- How to help you look after your health.



- Where you will live.



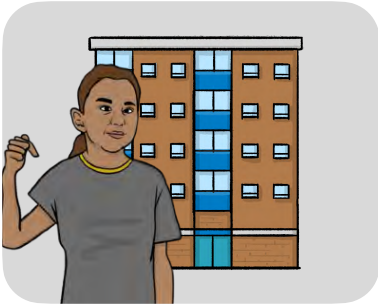
You will also talk about if you can leave custody to:

- Go on a short visit or outing.



- Take part in an activity outside custody to help you prepare for your release.

This is called **Release on Temporary Licence, ROTL** or **Mobility**.



You can only get ROTL or Mobility if you are in custody on a sentence.



You cannot get ROTL or Mobility if you are in custody on remand.

2. You will be involved in decisions about your release.



In your resettlement planning meetings, everyone will listen to your goals and hopes for the future.



Your YJS Case Manager and resettlement worker will tell you about any decisions about your release.



They will make sure that other people who are supporting you are included when they make plans.

3. The people who support you will understand your story and work together to help you.



There may be lots of people who support you, but you should work closely with just a few people who you know and trust.

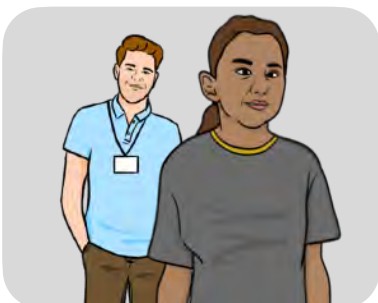


The people supporting you should find out about:

- Your life.

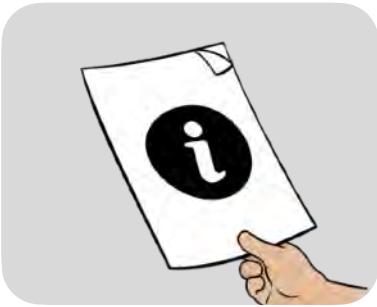


- Any problems you have or will have after you are released.



- The help you might need.

The people who support you will regularly talk to each other to:



- Share information.

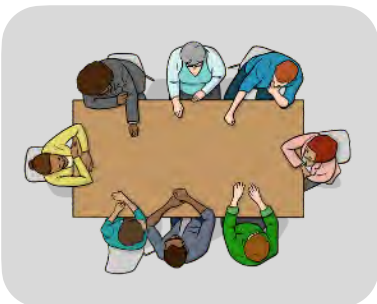


- Help make plans for your life after release.

You should not have to:

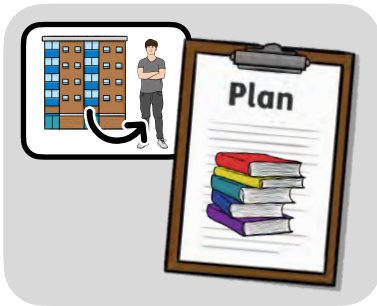


- Keep telling your story to new people.



- Go to lots of meetings.

4. There will be a plan in place for your learning after you are released.

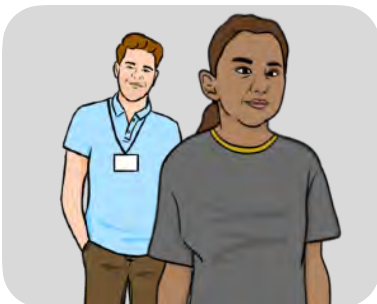


Your learning plan in custody should talk about what will happen after you are released.

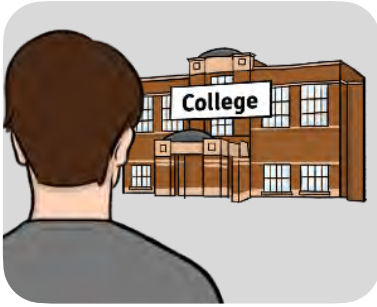


The staff who help with your learning should think about:

- Your interests.
- What you want to do with your life.
- Any support you may need.



If you can have ROTL or Mobility, you might be able to:



- Go on a short visit to attend open days at schools or colleges.



- Go on a course if you need to.



- Go to a job interview.

5. You should know where you will be living in good time before you are released, and it should be a safe place.



Staff should think about where you will live after release as soon as you go into custody.



Your YJS Case Manager should try to tell you where you will be living at least 6 weeks before you leave custody.



If you cannot go back to where you lived before, you will get help to find somewhere which:

- Is safe.



- Is comfortable.



- Has everything you need.



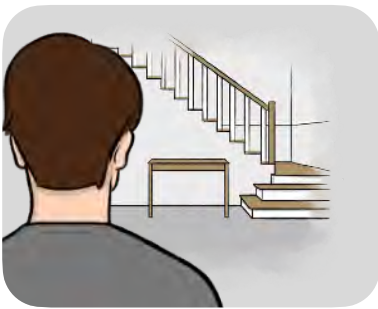
Everyone should do their best to find you somewhere you are happy to live.



Your YJS Case Manager, and social worker or personal advisor if you have one, should visit where you are planning to live before you move in.

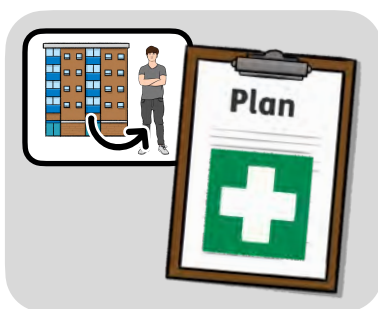


They will make sure it is safe and will be what you need.



If you are eligible for ROTL or Mobility, you might also be able to visit where you are planning to live before you are released.

6. You will have help to get health care when you leave custody.



The plans for your release will include how to look after your health.



The healthcare team in custody should organise this for you.



They should make sure you know where to go for medical treatment and support.



They should also:

- Help you register with a doctor.



- Talk to people who need to know about your health needs, if you let them.



- Give you any medications you need before you leave custody so that you do not run out.

7. Any rules you must follow on release will be fair and possible for you to do.

Your YJS Case Manager will keep in touch with you after release and will explain:



- Where and when you will have to meet them.



- Any rules you have to follow.



- How long you have to follow these rules for.

You should have a chance to talk about:



- Any worries you have about these rules.



- What support you might need to follow these rules.

8. You will have good support after you leave custody.

On the day of your release, you will see:



- Your YJS Case Manager, or



- Someone else you know and trust who is familiar with your resettlement plan.

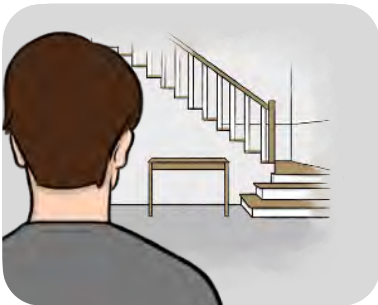


They will support you to:

- Get used to life after custody.



- Rebuild your life.



They should take you to where you will be living.



They will all help you have the support you need to have a good life and not commit more crime.



Your YJS case manager will 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.



They will regularly check in with you to:

- Find out how things are going.



- Help you with any issues you might have.

You will have 'care leaver status' at the end of your remand, if:



- If you are at least 16 years old, and



- You have been on remand for 13 weeks or more since you were 14 years old.

When you leave custody, your YJS case manager, social worker or personal advisor will tell you:



- What care leaver status means.



- What additional help or services you can get.

9. You will get support to stay safe after you leave custody.



Your YJS Case Manager will help to keep you safe.



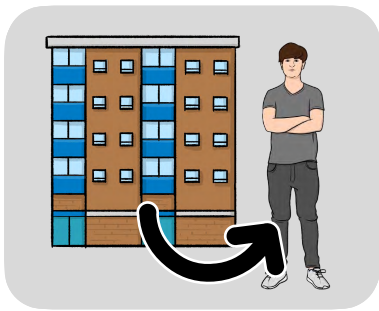
They will listen to you if you are worried about staying safe.



If where you are living is not safe, your YJS Case Manager should help you find somewhere else to live.



If there is a big threat to your safety, you might be moved to protect you.



Your local authority will make sure you have somewhere safe to go if:

- You have been released from custody following your remand, and

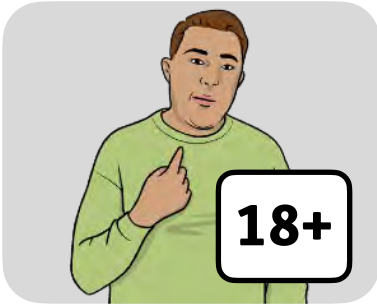


- You have not been found guilty.

10. You will get support during any change in your supervision.



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



If you are 18 before or shortly after you leave custody, you will move to adult probation services.

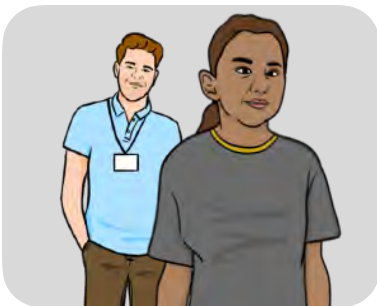


Your YJS Case Manager will help you with the move.



There should be a plan to:

- Make the change as easy as possible.



- Make sure you continue to have the support you need.



You might be able to keep getting help from your YJS team even after you are 18.

This will be decided based on your needs.

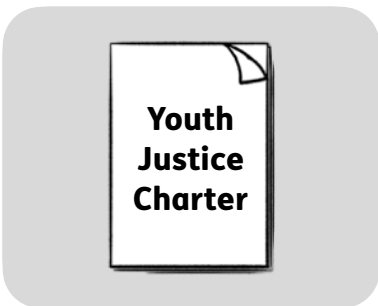
If you want to complain



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

You can contact us by:



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- Phone: 0203 334 3555