



Providing youth the opportunity to have a direct positive impact on their community

- ◆ Volunteers gain valuable experience with the legal system.
- ◆ Volunteers have the opportunity to make a contribution to the community.
- ◆ Volunteers are an active part in the legal process.



For more information contact:

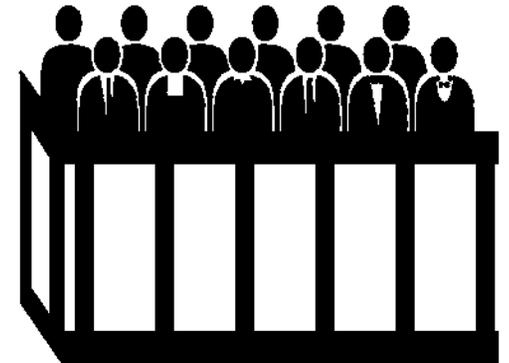
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**Wright County
Court Services**

Wright County Teen Court



A Restorative Justice Program coordinated
by Wright County Court Services

How Teen Court Works

Teen Court is a *diversion* program that requires certain juvenile offenders to face a jury of their peers rather than a judge as in the traditional juvenile court process

- ✓ The offender must admit to the charge, the Teen Court does not determine guilt.
- ✓ Volunteer jury members determine appropriate sentences for the offender.
- ✓ Volunteers commit to participating in at least one of two sessions each month, in addition to an initial training session.
- ✓ Volunteers fill the roles of Bailiff and Jury Foreperson, as well as jury members at large.
- ✓ Volunteers receive training in the legal process, legal terminology, and appropriate sentencing.



Teen Court is a legally-binding alternative to the traditional court process

1. When a juvenile commits a crime, law enforcement files a report with the County Attorney's Office.
2. The County Attorney's Office screens the case to determine if it is appropriate for Teen Court.
3. The offender must admit to the offense in order to avoid the traditional court system.
4. A Teen Court session is held and the offender is questioned by the jurors. The offender's parent(s) must attend and may be questioned.
5. The jurors determine appropriate consequences like restitution, educational classes, community service, apology letters, etc.
6. The offender remains on probation for 90 days and the case is closed/dismissed at that time, if he/she completes all conditions.
7. If the offender fails to complete the conditions, then the case is referred back to the juvenile court system.



Juvenile offenders are held accountable while benefiting from participating in the Teen Court Program

- ✓ The offender's peers, not the **system**, determine the sentence. This can have more of an impact than a sentence determined from a traditional manner.
- ✓ The offense may stay off the offender's record if he/she successfully completes the program.
- ✓ The offender has the opportunity to gain insight on how his/her behavior impacts the community and his/her peers.

If You Volunteer -

1. You will fill out a simple application.
2. You will attend a one-time training session where you will learn the proper procedures and terminology.
3. You will be called/summoned for jury duty once every 2-3 months for one session.
4. You may stay in the jury pool until you turn 18 or decide you no longer wish to participate.
5. If you cannot attend a session, you will be asked to call ahead of time.