

Responsibility
is Accepting that
YOU
are *the* Cause
& *the* Solution
of the Matter

Sentencing

Sentences are constructed by the jury to fit the specific respondent and the offense with the intention to provide the respondent a pathway to repair the harm.

A sentence can include:

- Community service
- Peer Panel jury duty
- Classes
- Apology letters
- Essays
- Other

If the respondent successfully completes the sentence, the case is dismissed. If the respondent fails to complete or comply with the sentence, the respondent is sent back to Municipal Court.

Please contact us with any questions!



Teen Court Coordinator

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Teen Court



City of Lone Tree

Program Overview

Mission:

The City of Lone Tree Teen Court is designed to increase community safety by providing an alternative opportunity to youthful respondents that promotes accountability and community engagement.

What is Teen Court?

Lone Tree Teen Court is a community-based diversion program that offers a voluntary alternative to the juvenile justice system. Trained youth volunteers from the community engage the respondent and the respondent's parent/legal guardian in the Teen Court process to deliver appropriate and meaningful consequences.

Using restorative justice principles and positive peer influence, Teen Court encourages the respondent to understand the impacts of the crime and to take accountability by repairing the harm done.

Restorative justice is used to foster accountability, skill building and community safety.

A respondent is eligible for Teen Court if:

- They are willing to take full responsibility for the crime that occurred and admit guilt
- They are 12 – 17 years old
- This is their first offense
- They are willing to be sentenced by a jury of peers, rather than by an adult judge

Respondents should also consider:

- By successfully participating in Teen Court, a respondent can avoid a juvenile conviction on their record
- It is required that a parent/legal guardian appear with the respondent
- Sentences could be lighter or harsher than one given by the judge
- A respondent gives up the right to have an adult attorney try their case

"We cannot solve our problems with the same thinking we used when we created them."

-Albert Einstein

Offenses seen by Teen Court:

Shoplifting Curfew Minor In Possession
Other youth related offenses

Peer Panels and Sentencing

Volunteers:

Peer Panels utilize youth volunteers in the role of jury members. The volunteers must participate in General Legal Training and take an Oath of Confidentiality in order to serve on a Peer Panel. The volunteers question the respondent and their parent/legal guardian, consider the perspectives of the victim and community, and use background information to develop meaningful sentencing options.

Peer Panel Process:

1. The respondent receives a referral letter and schedule an intake.
2. The respondent chooses Teen Court and accepts a deferred prosecution agreement.
3. Coordinator sets the panel date.
4. At the Peer Panel, the respondent and parent/legal guardian are questioned by the jury separately.
5. The jury deliberates and creates a sentence.
6. The coordinator reviews the sentencing requirements with the respondent.
7. The respondent has three months to complete their sentence.
8. The respondent meets with the Coordinator for an exit interview.