

Youth Justice: What happens after arrest?

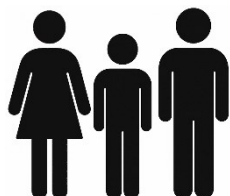


This easy read tells you what happens after you are arrested if you are a child or young person.

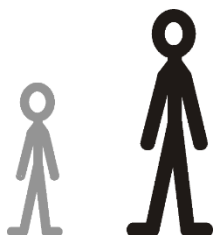
Being arrested



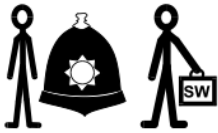
If you are arrested you will normally be taken to a police station.



If you are under 18 the police must try to talk to your parent or carer.



If you are under 18 you have the right to have an “**Appropriate Adult**” with you at the police station.



An **Appropriate Adult** must be over 18 and could be a parent, carer, relative, social worker or someone like a youth worker.



If you do not have an Appropriate Adult, in Nottinghamshire, the police will arrange for someone from [the Appropriate Adult Service](#) to be with you.



You can also have advice from a **solicitor**.



Solicitors are trained legal professionals who will give you advice about the law and your rights. It is their job to advise and defend you.



The police will interview you – ask you questions – about the crime they suspect you of. You should have your appropriate adult and solicitor with you when you are questioned.



Your solicitor will talk to you before the interview. The solicitor will explain what is happening and help you in the interview.



If you don't have your own solicitor the police will arrange for you to have a duty solicitor.



You do not have to pay a duty solicitor for the advice they give you in the police station.



The police will try to get together all the information they need about the alleged crime to decide what will happen next.



To make their decision they will consider the evidence, the seriousness of the crime.



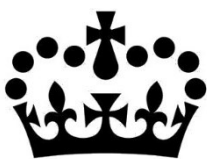
You might be charged – which means you have to appear in court. This will happen if there is a reasonable chance of a conviction and it is considered to be in the public interest.



If the police need more time to investigate, you might be released while the police continue to gather evidence.



If the crime is serious you might be held in custody until you go to court.



GOV.UK

There is more information [about your rights on being arrested on the GOV.UK website](https://www.gov.uk/about-your-rights-on-being-arrested).

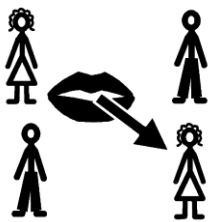
Out of court disposals



An “Out of Court Disposal” (O OCD) is when someone admits an offence and is not dealt with in court.



If someone admits they did the crime and the police decide the crime is not very serious, the person might be referred to an “Out of Court Disposal Panel” instead of being prosecuted in court.



If you are referred to a panel, a youth worker will meet with you and your parent or carer to talk about what has happened and to find out more about you and your life.



They will talk about how to help you to stay out of trouble and what help and support you might need.



They will also get information about you from any professionals you are working with and complete an assessment which will be talked about at the panel.



The panel will include people from the Youth Justice Service, Nottinghamshire Police, somebody who works in “restorative justice” and other people such as staff from health and education.



The panel will talk about the assessment and what you said about what happened.

The panel will decide what happens next – this is known as the “disposal”.



There are different things that can happen next and after the meeting you will be told what you will be expected to do.

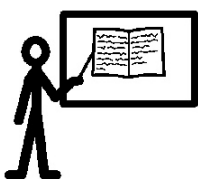


If needed, a youth justice worker will sort out sessions for you so you can do the things that are expected.



These sessions will give you knowledge, skills and support to stop you from getting in trouble with the police again in the future.

These activities could be:



- **Education, employment and training** to help you get back into school, education, training or employment.



- **Drugs and alcohol work**

to help you to understand your substance use and how it affects your behaviour or offending.



- **Support from CAMHS**

CAMHS is the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services. They can help you to manage emotions and trauma.



- **Use of time**

to help you develop a skill or get involved in something you are interested in.



- **Staying safe**

to help you understand how to stay safe and supporting you to do so.

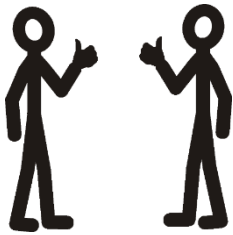


- **Increasing your understanding**

to look at how what you have done affects other people and helping you repair the harm. This is known as “Restorative Justice”.



- **Knowledge and understanding**
to increase your knowledge and understanding of the laws so you are less likely to get in trouble with the police in the future (for example, laws about knives).



- **Reparation**
supporting you to make amends for the harm you caused with your crime.

Criminal Courts



If you have to go to court it can be a difficult time. Nottinghamshire Youth Justice Service can support you and explain what is happening.



If you are waiting for Nottinghamshire Youth Justice Service to contact you and need help and support you can contact them by
Phone: 0115 804 2888.



A Youth Court is a special court for children and young people. They will make it easier to understand what is happening.



The judge or magistrate will speak directly to you, call you by your first name, and maybe ask you questions.



If you are under 16 you must take a parent or carer with you to court.



If you are 16 or 17 years old you may attend with a parent, carer or someone else who can support you.



The court will usually ask you if you are guilty or not guilty.



Most cases will be dealt with by the Youth Court but you may have to go to an adult Magistrates' Court.

This includes:



- If no Youth Court is available and a judge or magistrates has to make a decision about bail (whether to release you from custody)



- If a child is jointly charged with an adult

Very serious cases will be sent to the Crown Court.

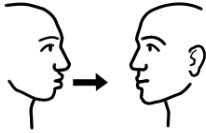
Criminal Records



Any time someone is dealt with by the police it will be recorded on the Police National Computer (the PNC).



This information is only deleted when a person reaches 100 years of age.



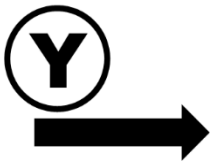
In some situations you might have to tell people about your criminal record.



A conviction means you have been sentenced in a court.



Under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974, people who have convictions or cautions are said to be “rehabilitated” after a certain length of time.



The length of time is based on the type of sentence or caution, not on the type of offence, and if the person was an adult or child at the time of the conviction.



After that time has passed, the conviction is called “spent”. You do not have to tell most employers about spent convictions.



You can find more information about “spent convictions” on [the Youth Justice Legal Centre’s website](#).

More information



To get more information speak to your Youth Justice Worker.



The National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders (NACRO) has [information on their website about when you have to disclose criminal records](#).



The government’s [GOV.UK website has information about rehabilitation periods](#).

Links in this document

The Appropriate Adult Service

theappropriateadultservice.org.uk

GOV.UK – Being arrested and your rights

gov.uk/arrested-your-rights

Youth Justice Legal Centre – Spent Convictions

yjlc.uk/resources/legal-terms-z/spent-conviction

NACRO – information about criminal records

nacro.org.uk/criminal-record-support-service/support-for-individuals/disclosing-criminal-records/disclosing-criminal-records-employers

GOV.UK – rehabilitation periods

gov.uk/guidance/rehabilitation-periods#rehabilitation-periods-table

For plain English web page version of this information, go to:

[What happens after arrest? \(Nottinghamshire County Council\)](https://nottinghamshire.gov.uk/care/childrens-social-care/youth-justice/what-happens-after-arrest)

nottinghamshire.gov.uk/care/childrens-social-care/youth-justice/what-happens-after-arrest

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