



MAP HERE

### Halifax Youth Court

PO Box 32  
Harrison Road  
Halifax  
HX1 2AN

Tel: 01422 360695

### Halifax Police Station

Richmond Close  
Halifax  
HX1 5TW

Tel: 01422 360333

### For further information please contact:

Calderdale Youth Offending Team  
3 Trinity Place  
Halifax  
HX1 1BD

Telephone  
**01422 368279**

Fax  
**01422 368483**

E-mail  
**info@calderdaleyot.org.uk**

#### Equal Opportunities

At all times you have the right to be treated fairly and without discrimination. This means the Youth Offending Panels and YOT staff will treat you fairly whatever your race, colour, sex, sexuality or disability. You are also expected to behave equally fairly towards other people.

#### Complaints Procedure

If you feel you have been treated unfairly or unreasonably by the YOT or Youth Offender Panels you can make a complaint. To do this, contact the Calderdale YOT Manager at the above address.

#### Data Protection

The Calderdale Youth Offending Team deals with personal data under the Data Protection Act 1998. Some of these may be sensitive such as criminal offences, proceedings and convictions. We may share some or all of them with other Council departments, our agents, service providers or other third parties. When involving any third party we shall take all reasonable steps to ensure that they will keep your personal data secure and treat it confidentially. If you are worried about giving us your personal details or about us sharing them with others, please discuss this with the member of staff who is dealing with your case. We will explain what you can do.

#### Accessibility

These information leaflets are available in a number of different formats and languages from our Halifax office, or from our website.

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**Youth Offending**  
Team

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Team

# Youth Court

## What it means to you



## Making Calderdale Safer

[www.calderdaleyot.org.uk](http://www.calderdaleyot.org.uk)

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### What is the Youth Court?

The Youth Court differs from the Magistrate's Court as it deals with young people ages 10 - 17 who are alleged to have committed offences. It is special because in deciding how to deal with young people it must look carefully at how a young person's welfare will be affected.

The Youth Court is also closed to the general public.

The newspapers can write about the offences but they cannot name the young person or their family.

The Youth Court will not normally deal with a young person unless their parents attend with them.

There are two courts in the Wakefield district - one in Pontefract and one in Wakefield. The addresses can be found on the reverse of this leaflet:

### What to do at Court

*It is important to get to Court on time.*

Give yourself plenty of time to get there. If you can't get to Court, for example, if you are ill, contact the Court as soon as possible to explain why.

When you arrive, make sure you give your name to the Usher. Ushers can be found in the court corridors.

The Usher will have a court list and will be able to tell you which Court your case will be heard in. You should then wait patiently for your name to be called.

### Do you need a Solicitor?

A young person and their parent or guardian can choose whether or not to have a Solicitor. Courts, however, can be confusing places and it is always useful to have someone who is legally trained to put your point of view to the Court.

If you want a Solicitor, it is best to arrange to see one as soon as you find out you have to go to Court. Legal advice for young people is often free. Parents may, however, have to pay something towards the costs, depending on their family's financial circumstances.

If you decide you want a Solicitor on the day, a Duty Solicitor is always available. Their advice is free.

### Who will be in the Court?

When you go into Court you usually stand facing three Magistrates. They will listen to what everyone has to say and then decide if an offence has been committed, and how it should be dealt with.

In front of them is the Justice's Clerk. The Clerk is a trained Lawyer who is there to manage the Court and give legal advice to the Magistrates.

As well as your own Solicitor, there will also be a Solicitor from the Crown Prosecution Service. They will present the facts for the case against you to the Court.

### The Youth Offending Team

A Court Representative from the Youth Offending Team will always be available to talk to you if you need any general advice about your Court appearance.

Sometimes, the Magistrates will ask for a report to be written about a young person to help them decide how to deal with a particular case. The Reports (known as 'Pre-Sentence Reports' or 'Specific Sentence Reports') are written by an Officer from the Youth Offending Service.

If a report is requested the Magistrates will postpone the case, usually for two to three weeks, and an officer will arrange to talk to you and your parents (or guardian) about the Report on another day.

### Appeals

When your case has been dealt with and you have been sentenced, if you think your conviction and/or sentence is unfair you can apply to have your case reconsidered at the Crown Court. This is called an Appeal. You should talk to a Solicitor as soon as possible if you are considering making an Appeal.

For more information about appeals you can speak to a Solicitor, or contact the Court directly. You can also contact the Youth Offending Team at our Wakefield office.