Fact Sheet for Parents/Carers

The carer has a very important role as the supporter of the child. Your child may be at a disadvantage if you do not go to the police station or to the conference with him or her. If you cannot attend, you should arrange for a member of your family, or another adult your child trusts to be with him or her at the conference.

If your child is under 14 years of age, you or another adult chosen by you must be present at the police station when the your child admits to a crime to the police and the police explain youth justice conferencing to your child.

If your child is 14 years of age or older, an adult chosen by your child (who may well be you) must be present when your child admits to a crime to the police and when the police explain youth justice conferences to your child.

You should make sure your child understands the things the police explain to him or her. These include:

- your child’s right to legal advice;
- where legal advice can be obtained; and
- your child’s right to choose to have the matter dealt with by a court.

It is important for you to attend the conference if you want to have a part in helping your child stop offending.

Your rights

- You have the right to be at your child’s conference and take part in the decision-making.
- You have the right to have the convenor explain things to you, and answer any questions from you.
- You have the right to make a suggestion to the convenor as to where the conference should be held.
- You have the right to an interpreter at the conference. If you have difficulty speaking English please let the convenor know so an interpreter can be organised.
- You and other participants at the conference can ask the convenor to consider changing parts of the conference. For instance, you can ask the convenor to include practices from your culture, or invite a respected leader from your community if you believe this will lead to a better outcome.
- You have the right to present your views to the convenor if you are not able to attend the conference.

Free legal advice 1800 10 18 10
Weekdays (9am to midnight)
Friday to Sunday & Public Holidays: 24 hrs