

PREPARING FOR A TEEN COURT PEER PANEL

Teen Court has scheduled your case to be heard in a Peer Panel on



YOUR PARENT OR GUARDIAN MUST BE WITH YOU.

This is a sentencing hearing only. In the Peer Panel, the defendant and Parent/guardian meet with a panel of three to five trained high school volunteers who determine the sentence supervised by an adult case manager.

Be at the Municipal Court House (224 E. Kiowa St.) at 3:30 on the day of your hearing. Sign-in on the second floor by the Pre-trial Room, Room 215.

Please dress appropriately.

The Defendant must pay a \$65 court fee on the day of the Peer Panel.

CASH OR MONEY ORDERS ONLY.

WHAT TO EXPECT IN A PEER PANEL:

- ◆ The defendant and parent will be introduced to the student volunteers on the panel. The defendant is sworn in and the parent is asked to leave the room.
- ◆ The panel will question the defendant about the offense, the circumstances around it, and any other important information. This is the defendant's opportunity to speak up and tell the panel anything they need to know to make an informed decision about an appropriate sentence.
- ◆ Next, the parent has an opportunity to speak to the panel privately. This is the parent's opportunity to tell the panel what they need to know in order for them to make an informed decision.
- ◆ The teen panel will then deliberate to determine the sentence and explain it to the parent and the defendant.
- ◆ Immediately after the sentencing, the parent and defendant will proceed to the Pre-trial room on the second floor and receive a detailed explanation of the sentence requirements.

SENTENCING:

- ◆ The sentence will include **JURY DUTY** on a future Teen Court trial for defendants ages 14 and older.
- ◆ All sentences include **COMMUNITY SERVICE** hours. Suggestions for community service locations are included with the attached information. Defendants are not restricted to this list but must choose a **NONPROFIT** organization.
- ◆ The sentence may also include educational classes (i.e. Theft Class; Anger Management Class), apology letters, essays, restitution, or other options the panel feels will help the defendant.

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