



KILLEEN TEEN COURT

WHAT IS TEEN COURT?

- Teen Court is a specially designed court to allow juvenile defendants and select volunteer teens to participate first hand in the judicial system. A teen court jury will evaluate the case and assess punishment. This program is offered at a substantially reduced cost to juvenile defendants who qualify.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

- Juveniles between the age of 10 and 17 (older if attending an accredited school working on a high school diploma).
- Must not have completed teen court within the last 12 months.
- Must be willing to enter a plea of guilty or no contest.

HOW TO REQUEST TEEN COURT

- If your citation was issued by a Killeen Police Officer and you are 16 years of age or younger a notice will be sent to your parent at the address provided to the officer by the juvenile offender.
- A parent or legal guardian must accompany defendants to the court.
- If eligible court costs in the amount of \$15.00 will be assessed and must be paid prior to participating in teen court.

DRESS CODE

- All participants must appear properly attired in order to participate. A dress code will be provided at the initial meeting.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

- Juvenile defendants and their parent or legal guardian first meet with a juvenile case manager in order to establish if the case and the juvenile are eligible for the teen court program. After the evaluation a qualifying juvenile will be placed on the teen court docket.
- The defense attorneys and prosecutors in teen court are teen volunteers trained and mentor by our judges, prosecutor and juvenile case managers.
- The jurors hearing the case are juvenile defendants who have already appeared in teen court. During jury deliberations are mentored to ensure that the rules of law are being followed and to impress upon the participants the importance of their duty.

PUNISHMENT

- Punishment is based on predetermined ranges, dependent upon the violation. Certain violations require mandatory punishment and will be automatically assessed by the judge. Punishment assessed by the jurors could include:
 - Serve as a juror
 - Community service
 - Apology letters
 - Attendance at a remedial class

**This is not an all-inclusive list – punishment may vary depending on the circumstances of a case.

THE DAY OF TEEN COURT

- The juvenile defendant will enter a plea of guilty or no contest to the Municipal Court Judge. Once the plea has been accepted court will recess in order for the defendant to meet with their assigned defense attorney.
- The defense will present the case to a teen jury in an effort to obtain a reduced sentence for the defendant. The prosecutor will present the case to the teen jury in an effort to obtain a fair and just punishment; which may or may not be the maximum punishment allowed.
- Witnesses may be called. A defendant will decide if they want to testify in their own case.
- After hearing the case, the teen jury will deliberate to decide the punishment.

AFTER TEEN COURT

- The defendant and parent will meet with a juvenile case manager. At this time the JCM will assign community service (as applicable) and provide written details of the assessed punishment to the defendant.

COMPLIANCE

- Keep in mind that the court expects defendants to successfully complete the program. Questions regarding the ability to complete the assessed punishment should be asked immediately – do not wait until it's too late. Should any part of the punishment not be completed within the time limits provided, the defendant and parent will be required to appear before a judge in open court to explain the reasons.

MUNICIPAL COURT STAFF

Mentors:

Presiding Judge – Mark D. Kimball
Associate Judge – Greg K. Simmons
Prosecutor - Marti Samuel

Juvenile Case Managers and Mentors:

Mr. Johnny Brooks 254-501-7657
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Mr. Joseph Sturgeon 254-501-7866
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