

# Parish Hall Enquiries

What you need to know





## What happens at an Enquiry?

**Step 1:** Before the Enquiry a Probation Officer will contact you and your parents (or carers) to find out a bit about you and to answer any questions you may have about what is going to happen.

**Step 2:** At the Enquiry you and your parent or carer will meet with the Centenier and a member of the Probation Service Team. If you don't attend, you may be sent to Court.

**Step 3:** If you admit the charge, the Centenier will talk to you about what happened to understand your version of events.

If you don't admit the charge, you will have to go to Court.

**Step 4:** The Centenier can decide to:



give you a written caution



give you a fine up to £200



place you on a Deferred Decision



send you to the Youth Court



collect more information and decide later



take no further action

**A "record" from a Parish Hall Enquiry isn't the same as a Court conviction, but it is kept by the Police and could be used in the future.**



## What happens if I get put on a Deferred Decision?

The Centenier may decide to give you a Deferred Decision. This gives you a chance to show that you can stay out of trouble. As part of a Deferred Decision you may have to meet with an Alcohol and Drugs worker, the Restorative Justice Officer or a Probation Officer.

The Probation Officer will work with you to find the best ways to help you stay out of trouble. This may involve you having one-to one sessions or going on programmes such as Positive Steps or RoadSafe.

**Getting a Deferred Decision is giving you a second chance, it is an opportunity for you to stay out of trouble.**





## What happens if I go to Youth Court?

Before going to Court your parent or carer should arrange for you to see a lawyer (Advocate). They can give advice and speak for you in Court. You have a right to free legal representation. A parent or carer should apply for this on your behalf.

The Youth Court is a Panel of three people – a Magistrate and 2 members of the community. If you admit the charge the Panel will decide whether to deal with you straight away or ask the Probation Service to write a Pre-Sentence Report about you. A Pre-Sentence Report will help them to decide how to deal with you.

**They could give you a conviction which gives you a criminal record.**

If you don't admit the charge the court will tell you what happens next.



# Parish Hall Enquiries are a chance to sort things out without going to court.

**A Parish Hall Enquiry happens when a Centenier decides there is enough evidence to charge someone with an offence.**



A Centenier is part of the Honorary Police in Jersey.



# Parents and carers

If your child is under 18 you must attend the Parish Hall Enquiry. You will be asked to support them, so they don't reoffend.



## Jersey Probation and After-Care Service

 01534 441900

 [probabtion@courts.je](mailto:probabtion@courts.je)

 [www.gov.je/probation](http://www.gov.je/probation)



## Legal Aid Office

 01534 613999

 [www.legalaid.je](http://www.legalaid.je)



**Children's  
Commissioner**  
for Jersey