



Police and Young People

The consequences
of offending



SOUTH AUSTRALIA POLICE
SAFER COMMUNITIES



**Government
of South Australia**



The Juvenile Justice System

Where an offence is committed by a young person aged 10 - 18 they will be dealt with under the *Young Offenders Act 1993*.

A young person who commits an offence will be dealt one of the following actions depending on the nature or severity of the offence committed.



Informal Caution

Minor offences can be dealt with by a police officer giving an 'on the spot' warning, known as an informal caution.

No punishment can be imposed if an informal caution is given but the young person should clearly understand the nature of the offence and the consequences of further similar behaviour.

Informal cautions are recorded by police, but would not be provided during a criminal history check.

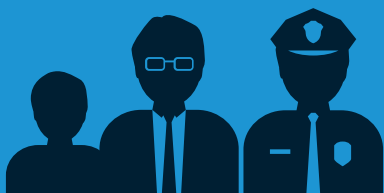


Police may also inform the young person's parent or guardian. This record does not constitute a criminal record and cannot be used in any court proceedings.

Formal Caution

A formal caution is conducted by a police officer in the presence of a parent or guardian. An official record is kept. The offence then counts as prior offending should the young person re-offend.

Consequences include paying compensation to a victim, completing community service, apologising to a victim or doing anything else that is deemed appropriate in the circumstances.



Where a young person is dealt with by formal caution a police record is kept. This is not a criminal record but is a record used to assist police in determining action should the young person come under notice for offending in the future.



Family Conference

A family conference is convened by a Youth Justice Coordinator from the Courts Administration Authority. A police officer is present, along with the young person's parent or guardian. Victims and other significant people are invited to attend the conference.

Consequences include paying compensation to a victim, completing community service, apologising to a victim, or anything appropriate in the circumstances.

Where a young person is dealt with by family conference, a police record is kept. This is not a criminal record but is a record used to assist police in determining action should the young person come under notice for offending in the future.



Youth Court

The Youth Court is presided over by a Judge or Magistrate. Previous family conference or formal caution matters can be alleged as prior criminal history in the Youth Court.

A matter may be diverted from the Youth Court to a formal caution or family conference if certain criteria are met.

A young person who attends the Youth Court may receive home detention, or may be required to enter into an obligation to be of good behaviour, pay a fine, have their licence disqualified, or enter into some other undertaking.

A young person who has their matter heard before the Youth Court and guilt is proven may receive a Criminal Record.

Consequences of a Criminal Record

A Criminal Record will have serious implications for the young person for the rest of their life.



A criminal record may affect:

- Employment opportunities.
- Travelling overseas.
- Volunteer work.
- Bank loans.
- Insurance.
- Personal reputation.

For further information regarding the Juvenile Justice System please contact your local station. Find your local police station by visiting **www.police.sa.gov.au**.



**THINK
FIRST
THEN
DIAL**

