

PREPARING FOR A TEEN COURT PEER PANEL

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



YOUR PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN MUST BE WITH YOU

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

You MUST be at the Municipal Courthouse (located at 224 E. Kiowa St. between Nevada & Weber) to check in between 3:00PM and 3:30PM - please understand that the process may take up to 3 hours. Check in with Teen Court staff in Room 120 on the first floor. Please dress appropriately.

The defendant must pay the \$120 court fee on the day of the Peer Panel. CASH, CREDIT CARDS, 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 first floor and receive a detailed explanation of the sentence requirements.

SENTENCING:

- ◆ The sentence will include one **JURY DUTY** on a future Teen Court trial.
- ◆ 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. Community Impact Panel; Straight Talk etc.), apology letters, essays, restitution, or other options the panel feels will help the defendant.

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