

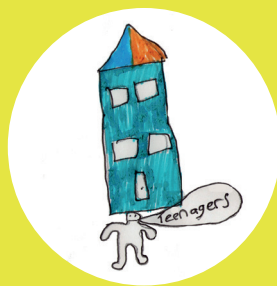
What happens when young people break the law?

All crimes carry different potential sentences for the person who has committed them. A range of circumstances and considerations are taken into account before a sentence is decided upon.

For young people, how they have broken the law will be assessed and they may find themselves with a caution, be subject to a community order supervised by the Youth Offending Team or spend time in custody, depending on the seriousness of the crime.

Even if a young person doesn't go to court they could receive something called a 'youth caution' which involves having photos and fingerprints taken, parents informed and a written record on file. Higher level 'youth cautions' involve more interaction with the Youth Offending Team and the police. Young people can also be required to follow a 'restorative justice' programme, often involving giving back to the community, as a result of their crime.

It is worth remembering that any record can be permanent and can affect people's college choices, job options and ability to travel in the future.



For more information:

- **Citizen's Advice:** www.citizensadvice.org.uk/law-and-courts/legal-system/young-people-and-the-law/
- **Childline:** www.childline.org.uk or 0800 1111

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NORTHUMBERLAND
COUNTY COUNCIL



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YOUTH SERVICE

YJB
Youth Justice Board
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KNOW THE SCORE BEFORE YOU BREAK THE LAW



Young people and the law in the UK

Alcohol + Drugs

- It is illegal to sell alcohol to someone under the age of 18 anywhere.
- If you are under the age of 18 and are caught drinking alcohol in a public place you will have your drink confiscated, you will be taken home and a letter will be sent to your home address.

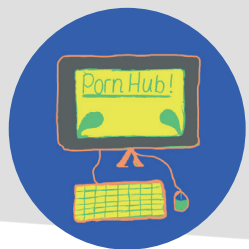


- It is illegal to have, produce, give away or sell drugs (controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act).
- It is illegal to smoke cigarettes under the age of 16.
- It is illegal to sell single cigarettes to anyone, adult or child.

Sex + Porn



- Sexual activity under the age of 16, whether gay or straight, is breaking the law. You could be charged with statutory rape or indecent assault.



- It is illegal and a serious criminal offence for an adult or young person to take, hold or share "indecent" photos of anyone under the age of 18.
- Encouraging someone under 16 to look at pornography is sexual abuse.

Racism + Verbal Abuse

- Verbal abuse is using spoken language to threaten, insult, humiliate and shame another person.
- If you bully someone, including online bullying, because of their race, religion, transgender identity or sexual orientation, then it can be seen as a 'hate incident'.
- Threatening someone with physical harm either verbally or by email, text or through body language, is a criminal threat.

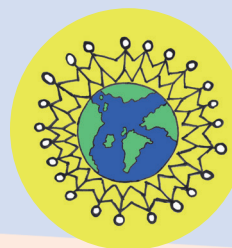


Anti Social Behaviour : Community + Vandalism

- Examples of Anti-social behaviour include nuisance and rowdy behaviour, vandalism, graffiti, littering, and fireworks misuse.



- Anyone over the age of 10 can be given a Criminal Behaviour Order (CBO) if they behave antisocially.



- Getting a CBO means you won't be allowed to do certain things, such as visiting or spending time with known troublemakers.
- Once you are given a CBO it lasts for a set period of time. The maximum length being 3 years.

Theft

- Being caught shoplifting can be a lot more serious than people think.
- If you have been arrested for shoplifting, especially if it's more than once, you may end up with a criminal record.
- This can make it harder to get a job, get into college or travel to certain countries and you may be banned from stores and shopping centres.



Violence

- **Common assault** is an action that causes a person to fear that he or she is in danger of violent attack. It includes threatening acts, words or gestures (or a combination of any two or all three). It doesn't have to include the use of force but the offender must have the ability to carry out any threat at the time.
- **Actual Bodily Harm (ABH)** is when a person deliberately inflicts physical injury on another person. It includes harm to the skin, flesh and bones of the victim plus the victim's organs, nervous system and brain. Although it is considered less serious than Grievous Bodily Harm (see below) even the slightest physical injury such as a minor cut or a bruise can lead to a conviction for ABH.
- **Grievous Bodily Harm (GBH)** is when a person deliberately inflicts serious physical injury on another person.

