



Volunteer Juror Form

What is Youth Court?

Youth Court is an alternative approach to addressing anti-social, delinquent and criminal behavior in young people ages 9 through 19. In Youth Court, a youth who has admitted guilt for their participation in a low level, first offense crime or violation appears for a sentencing hearing before a jury of peers. The jury is presented with evidence relevant to sentencing, deliberates, and passes sentence. Sentences include community service hours, apology letters, educational classes and other applicable requirements.

What is a Youth Court Juror and what are the Responsibilities?

Jurors will be drawn from a volunteer pool of young people who reside in the Town of Bethlehem and are in grades 8-12. Volunteer jurors are not required to attend prior training classes. There is no mandated amount of jury duties that are required; you volunteer based on your schedule. It is required that if you are chosen for a jury, that you attend your scheduled case, unless you have contacted the Director and excused yourself.

During the course of the hearing, jurors will be given instructions by the judge on their role in determining an appropriate sentence. Jurors will be led in their deliberation and discussion by a Jury Foreperson who is a member of the program. The Jury Foreperson's role is to insure that each juror's views are solicited and given fair consideration. As a juror, you will work with your fellow jurors to reach a unanimous decision that not only provides appropriate sanctions for the offender, but also presents the offender with an opportunity to learn and grow from the experience while affording the victim and the community with appropriate redress.

All information revealed in the course of a hearing, including the names of offenders or witnesses is confidential and is NOT to be divulged outside of the courtroom. To this end, an Oath of Confidentiality is read and signed off on by each juror PRIOR to their participation for each and every case.

Volunteer jurors will receive an e-mail announcement from the Youth Court Director requesting volunteers for a specific case date and time approximately a week before the case date. Once all volunteers have had an opportunity to respond, a juror assignment e-mail will be posted.

I would like to become a Bethlehem Youth Court Jury Volunteer. (Please print)

NAME: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL: _____

DATE OF BIRTH: _____ **SCHOOL/GRADE:** _____

PARENT SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____

Bethlehem Youth Court
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