



MINISTRY OF  
**JUSTICE**  
*Tabū o te Ture*

# The Young Adult List



With the right support and advice, no matter how big the barriers in front of us, we can achieve.

**Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa**  
New Zealand Government

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# WHAT'S THE YOUNG ADULT LIST?



The Young Adult List is a special group of court cases for people aged 18 to 25 who are charged with crimes. The main differences from normal court are:

- Judges and lawyers have special experience working with young people in court.
- People in the court use words that are easier to understand.

# OTHER QUESTIONS YOU MIGHT HAVE



## **Who will I see at court?**

You'll see many different people around court. This may include judges, lawyers, court staff, police officers and probation officers.

## **Who can I ask if I need legal help?**

On your first day in court, duty lawyers can give free legal help if you don't have a lawyer.

Your lawyer can explain what will happen, what your rights and choices are, and can help with any questions about your case.

Court staff can help you with general questions about what happens at court.

## **Do I have to be on the Young Adult List?**

If you're aged 18 to 25 you'll be put on the Young Adult List.

## **How long does it take?**

Every case is different. It might take one day, one month, a few months, or a lot longer. You can ask your lawyer about the process and how long they expect things to take.

## **Can I bring support people to court?**

Yes. Friends, whānau and family members are encouraged to come and support you at court.

# POSSIBLE COURTROOM LAYOUT



Victims who choose to attend court may have the option to sit in the body of the court during the List or in the public gallery.



**Judge**

**Court taker**

**\*Possible support groups:**

Alcohol and Other Drug Clinician  
Bail Support Officer  
Community Support  
Justice Liaison Nurse  
Māori, Pacific, Ethnic Services  
Restorative Justice



**Police Prosecutor**



**Probation  
Officer**



**Waiting lawyers**



**Media**

**Support Groups\***

**Court  
Attendant**



**Public gallery**

# WHAT OUR WORDS MEAN



## Affidavit

A document of facts that has been confirmed as the truth (see **Affirmation** and **Oath**). Affidavits need to be signed in front of an approved person.



## Affirmation

A promise to tell the truth about what happened. This is the non-religious way of saying an oath in court (See **Oath**).



## Alcohol and Other Drug Clinician

They talk to people who come to court who might need help with their use of alcohol or other drugs. They can help the person to get treatment and/or put them in touch with the right Drug and Alcohol services.



## Appeal

An appeal is when someone who loses a case in court asks a higher court to review the court's decision.





## Bail

If someone's been charged with a crime, they might be able to apply for bail. This means they don't have to stay in jail until their case gets to court. They'll have to follow some rules (conditions) while on bail (See **Bail conditions**).



## Bail conditions

The rules that someone must follow when they get bail. This might include coming back to court when they're told and not travelling far away from where they're staying.



## Bail Support Officer

A Bail Support Officer helps support people to get bail (see Bail). They can also help while someone is on bail. This includes help to find a place to live, a job, counselling, school courses, and other help they might need.



## Breach

Breaking the rules or doing something you weren't allowed to. For example, breaking the rules of your bail (see **Bail conditions**).



## Charge

A formal statement (usually by a Police Officer) that a person is accused of committing a crime.



## Communication Assistant

They can help you in court hearings (see **Hearing**) with things like reading and understanding information. The judge can arrange this if you need it.



## Conviction

When the Judge finds you guilty of a crime.



## Counsel

A lawyer (See **Lawyer**).



## Court Victim Advisor

They provide information to victims' from the defendant's first day in court, until sentencing and through to any appeals. They may also provide the court with the victims' views. This is a free service. (see **Appeal** and **Victim**)



## Custody

When you have to stay in jail until your next court hearing.



## Defendant

A person who's charged with (accused of) a crime.



## Discharge

When a police charge (see **Charge**) or an order made by a judge (see **Judge**) is cancelled.



## Diversion

Diversion is managed by the Police Prosecution Service and lets some defendants (see **Defendant**) take responsibility for minor crimes without going through the full court process. Diversion might include things like going to counselling or writing letters to victims (see **Victim**) to say sorry. Charges dealt with through diversion don't go on a criminal record.



## Duty Lawyer

A lawyer (See **Lawyer**) who works at the court. The duty lawyer can help on your first day in court free of charge if you don't have your own lawyer. They can also help you apply for more affordable or free legal help if you need it. This is called legal aid.



## Evidence

The things shown in court to try to prove what was said or done. It can include things like documents, photographs, maps and video/sound recordings.



## Hearing

The legal process where both sides of a case have their say in court. The judge (see **Judge**) or the jury makes their decision based on what they learn during the hearings.



## Judge

The person who is in control of court hearings and makes decisions about cases.



## **Justice Liaison Nurse**

They talk to people who come to court who might need help with their mental health or use of alcohol or other drugs. The Nurse can tell the court if a person needs to see a Community Mental Health Team or Drug and Alcohol Service.



## **Lawyer**

A person trained to give legal help during the court process. You might find and pay for your own lawyer. You can also apply for more affordable or free legal help if you need it. This is called legal aid.



## **Māori, Pacific and Ethnic Services**

They give cultural advice and work to improve police relationships with Māori, Pacific and Ethnic people. They can provide advice and support to defendants and victims at court.



## **Oath**

A promise to tell the truth about what happened. This promise is made to a god you believe in.



## Opposed (bail)

When the police don't think the court should let you have bail (see **Bail**).



## Plea

Telling the court if you're guilty or not guilty. This happens when you're charged with a crime.



## Probation Officer

They can help the court decide what sentence (see **Sentence**) to give to a person who's found guilty. They can also take people back to court for not finishing all the parts of their sentence.



## Remand

After a court hearing, you might be:

- remanded at large, which means you're free to go until your next court hearing; or
- remanded in custody, which means you stay in jail until your next court hearing; or
- remanded on bail, which means you're released on bail (See **Bail**).



## Restorative Justice

A process that happens outside of court. You'll meet with the person (the victim) who was hurt by the crime. Someone else will also be at the meeting to help work out how to make things right for the victim. You get to choose if you want to go to these meetings.



## Sentence

The penalty given to a defendant (see **Defendant**). Sentencing happens when the defendant has admitted to a crime or has been found guilty. A possible sentence could be time in jail.



## Victim

A person who has been impacted by a crime.



## Witness

A person who saw, heard or experienced an event. This person may be asked to give evidence at court.



## Young Adult List

A special list of court cases for defendants (see **Defendant**) aged 18 to 25 years old.



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