



Criminal court process for youth aged 12-17

First Appearance Diversion Your case starts in "set date The Crown court" where 4 things can happen: might offer you diversion. Diversion is when 1. You ask for another court date if you complete a program you need more time, for example, or other tasks instead of to find a lawyer or get disclosure. going through the court Your charges are withdrawn or system. The Crown will stayed. usually withdraw or stay Set a date for a trial. your charges if you complete diversion. Talk to your lawyer Set a date for a guilty plea. before you agree to diversion. You will probably have to return to set date court multiple times before your case is over. **Guilty plea** Trial **Crown withdraws** You always have Talk to your or stays your the right to a trial if lawyer before charge you want one. you plead guilty. **YES** NO Are you found guilty? You are free to go Sentencing Understand what A judge will decide will go on your your sentence. youth record.

Withdrawn charges

The Crown must withdraw your charges if there is:

- ▶ not enough evidence, or
- ▶ no benefit to the public to continue your case.

Your lawyer can discuss this with the Crown.

Stayed charges

A stay means the Crown puts your charge on hold for one year. They can bring the charge back to court within one year, but not if one year has passed.

Youth records

You will have a youth record if you are charged, no matter what.

How long that record is accessible to others depends on the outcome of your case. After your record is sealed, no one will be able to see it, except in special circumstances.

Talk to your lawyer or duty counsel to find out more.

You can find more information about Youth Criminal Justice at stepstojustice.ca.

This is general legal information for people in Ontario, Canada. It is not intended to be used as legal advice.

