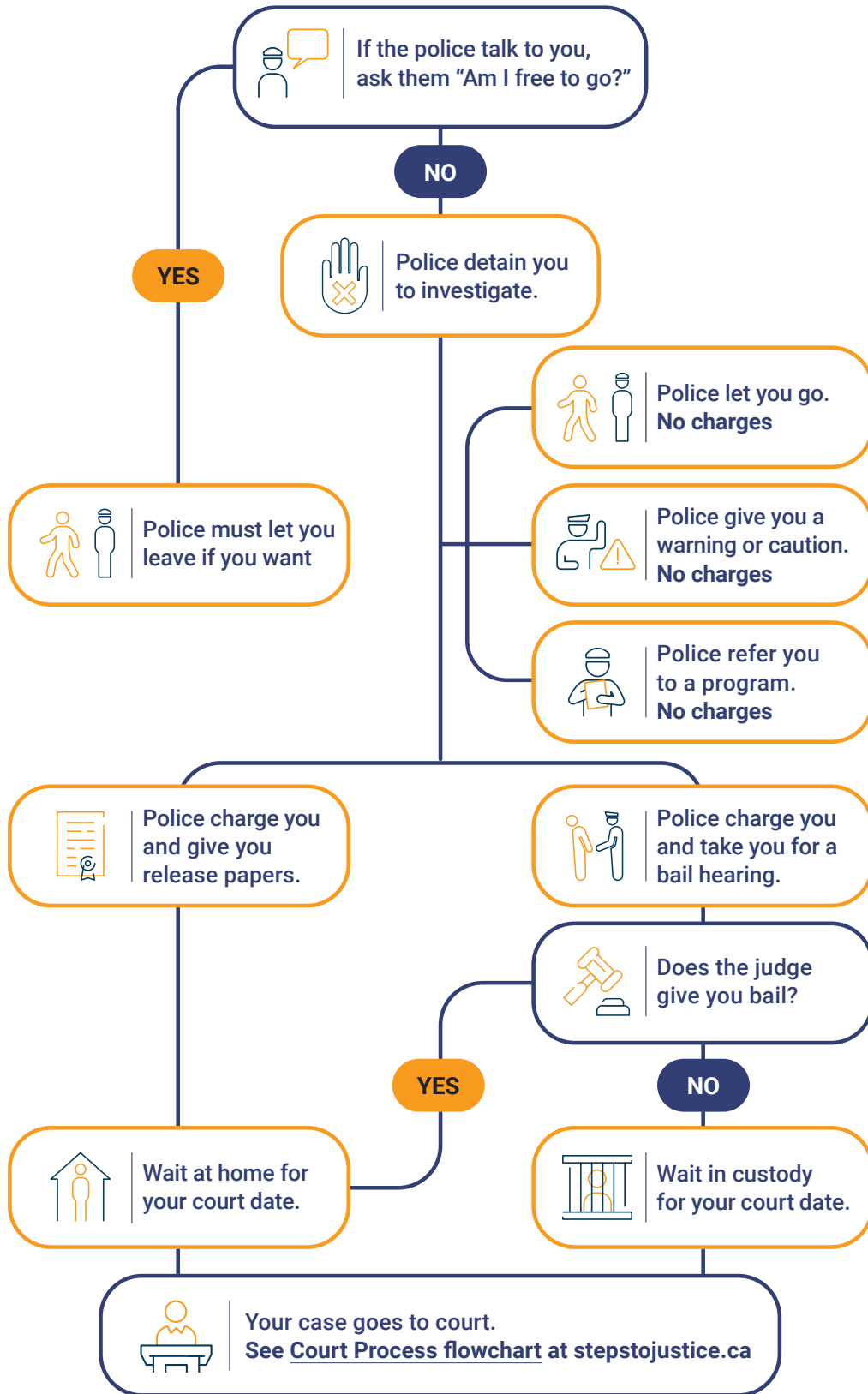


# When police talk to youth aged 12-17



**Police can detain you if they believe you're connected to a crime.**

For example, you match the description of a suspect.

**While you're detained or arrested:**

- ▶ Police must tell you why.
- ▶ You don't have to answer police questions but you should say your name and age. Giving a fake name is a crime.
- ▶ Police must help you call a free lawyer.
- ▶ Police must help you contact an adult.
- ▶ When you're detained, police can do a pat down search for weapons.
- ▶ When you're arrested, police can do a full search for weapons and evidence.

**Police can only charge you if a less serious option would not be enough to make you feel responsible for what you did.**

You can find more information about [Youth Criminal Justice](http://stepstojustice.ca) at [stepstojustice.ca](http://stepstojustice.ca).

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