



## Welcome to the Orleans Parish Juvenile Court

Orleans Parish Juvenile Court serves the people of Orleans Parish through its handling of all juvenile matters, specifically: delinquency cases, juvenile status offenses, Child in Need of Care proceedings, adoptions, voluntary transfers of custody, termination of parental rights, and juvenile traffic tickets.

The Orleans Parish Juvenile Court is dedicated to providing a court of excellence for children, youth and families by enforcing the Louisiana Children's Code.

## Benefits of Teen Court

Positive peer pressure sends a clear message to the offenders about their behavior. Teen Court reduces the likelihood of repeat offenses and serves as a positive learning experience.

Teen Court offers the teen volunteer an opportunity to experience positive leadership roles.

Both teen offenders and teen volunteers learn about due process and the benefits of volunteering to improve their community.

## How to Get Involved

For more information contact:  
Orleans Parish Juvenile Court  
Teen Court Program Office  
504.658.9583

## Orleans Parish Teen Court

**TEEN COURT  
PEER COURT  
YOUTH COURT**



**JUVENILE JUSTICE CENTER  
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## What is Teen Court?

**Youth courts** (also called teen, peer, and student **courts**) are programs in which **youth** are sentenced by their peers for minor crimes, offenses, and/or violations.

**Youth court** programs are intended to offer an alternative to the traditional juvenile justice system and school disciplinary proceedings.

## Why Teen Court?

The philosophy of Teen Court is to use peer pressure as a positive force that holds the teen offenders accountable for their actions. In Teen Court, the emphasis is on restorative justice, seeking to repair the harm done to the victim and the community.

## How Does Teen Court Work?

Teen Court hearings are held at Juvenile Court. Youth volunteers serve as judges. Defendants are questioned by both the teen defense and prosecution attorneys to determine the circumstances of the offense.

After careful consideration of the facts and circumstances, the teen jury determines a fair and constructive sentence, which may include community service and participation in future teen court sessions, counseling, attending educational programs and writing essays and letters of apology to the victim.

## What is the Participation Criteria?

- Must be a first-time misdemeanor offense
- Offender must admit involvement/ guilt
- Offender must be between ages 12 and 17 at the time of the offense
- Offender and parent must agree to participate in the program

## Volunteer Roles

### Youth Volunteer Positions

- Judge • Jury • Bailiff • Jury
- Attorney (Prosecution and Defense)

### Adult Volunteer Positions

Committee Member • Judge Teen Attorney Assistant • Jury Monitor Training Session Presenter Workshop Presenter