

RULES GOVERNING TEEN COURTS

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Rule 1. Establishing a Teen Court.

(a) A group of two or more persons may petition any juvenile court, circuit court, and/or municipal court to establish a Teen Court. Such petition shall include:

- (i) The names, addresses and phone numbers of the adult sponsors;
- (ii) The names, addresses and phone numbers of all teens who have signed letters of commitment to voluntarily participate in the teen court program.
- (iii) Certification from adult sponsors that there is adequate adult sponsorship and that there is a sufficiently large pool of teen volunteers to make the functioning of the teen court feasible and meaningful.

(b) If the supervising court is satisfied that the petition to establish a teen court meets the requirements set out above, that court may, in its discretion, forward that petition to the appropriate governing body for its approval and consent pursuant to W.S. § 7-13-1203(b). If the supervising court decides not to forward the petition to the governing body for its approval and consent, the court shall explain in writing the reason(s) for its decision and return the petition to those who filed it.

(c) If the teen court is authorized by the governing body and established by the supervising judge, the supervising judge shall conduct a preliminary training session with all adult and teen volunteers to establish local policies and protocols.

- (i) The supervising court shall report the establishment of its teen court to the Supreme Court. The report shall include the name, address and phone number of a sponsoring adult or entity and the name of the supervising judge.

(d) Nothing in subdivisions (a), (b) or (c) of this Rule shall preclude a judge from initiating a request for consent and approval under W.S. § 7-13-1203(b).

(Amended May 9, 2000, effective July 1, 2000; amended December 2, 2002, effective January 6, 2003.)

Rule 2. Proceedings in Teen Court.

(a) All proceedings shall conform to the governing statute and applicable rules of criminal procedure as the supervising judge deems appropriate. In all other respects, the proceedings may be informal.

- (i) Juries shall have not less than three (3) and not more than six (6) members.
- (ii) Jury verdicts shall be unanimous.
- (iii) The jury verdict shall be in writing and shall be signed by the defendant, parent or legal guardian and supervising judge.
- (iv) Members of the jury may be challenged only for cause. The supervising court may define a challenge for cause.

(b) The supervising court shall design sentencing alternatives appropriate for its community.

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(i) Pursuant to W.S. § 7-13-1204(a)(viii), such alternatives shall include, but are not limited to:

- (A) Community service as authorized by the supervising court;
- (B) Mandatory participation in law related education classes, appropriate counseling, treatment or other education programs;
- (C) A requirement the teen defendant participate as a juror or other teen court member in proceedings before the teen court;
- (D) Fines, if any, not to exceed the statutory amount.

(c) The supervising court, or its appointed presiding judge, shall design specific alternative ranges for each case before it pursuant to W.S. § 7-13-1204(a)(viii).

(d) The supervising court, or its appointed presiding judge, shall inform each jury of the sentencing alternatives and the limits for each alternative before the jury retires for deliberations.

Rule 3. Reports.

The results of all proceedings in teen court shall be reported to the Supreme Court on a form provided by the Supreme Court upon notice that a teen court has been established pursuant to Rule 1(c)(i). A report shall be submitted quarterly not later than January 15, April 15, July 15, and October 15, for activity during the preceding quarter.

Rule 4. Discontinuing a Teen Court.

If the supervising court or governing body decides to discontinue a teen court created under Rule 1 of these rules, the supervising judge shall report that decision to the Supreme Court immediately.

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RULES GOVERNING TEEN COURTS

Form A

APPENDIX OF FORMS

Form A. Teen Court disposition report.

(Rule 3, to be Submitted to Supreme Court Quarterly)

TITLE OF CASE	DOCKET NUMBER	DISPOSITION
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		
7.		
8.		
9.		
10.		
11.		
12.		
13.		
14.		

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Form B

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Form B. Teen Court Intake and Case Progress Form.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Docket Number: _____

Offense: _____

This supervising court, _____, finds that _____ is an appropriate person to appear in Teen Court. Teen Court has been explained to him/her and by signing below he/she agrees to abide by the rules of the Teen Court and comply with his/her constructive sentence imposed by his/her peers.

Teen signature

date

Parent/guardian signature

date

You have agreed to appear in Teen Court on _____, (year), at _____p.m.

Teen Court is held at _____ in _____, Wyoming.

Bring this notice with you — you must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Good luck!

Please call _____ if an emergency prevents you from appearing at this time.

Case Progress

Name: _____ Docket Number: _____

_____ This is to notify all interested parties that _____ has completed all Teen Court requirements, fulfilling his/her constructive sentence imposed by the Teen Court jury. Congratulations! Accordingly, the supervising court shall dismiss the charges against him/her in accordance with WYO. STAT. § 7-13-1203(d) (Supp. 1996).

_____ This is to notify all interested parties that _____ has failed to complete all Teen Court requirements and has failed to fulfill his/her constructive sentence. He/She is being referred back to the supervising court.

_____, Adult sponsor.

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Form C

Form C. Teen Court Sentence and Contract to Comply.

Name: _____ DOB: _____ Case #: _____

Address: _____ Phone #: _____

Offense(s) and date(s) of occurrence: _____

We, the Teen Jury, recommend that the Defendant, _____, receive the following constructive sentence:

Foreperson

Teen Court Judge

Date

Instructions to Teen Court jury: You will retire to the Jury Room and Select a foreperson for your group. You will then determine a sentence for the Defendant by a unanimous decision. When you have completed your deliberations and are ready to return to the courtroom, please notify the bailiff or court coordinator and give this form to that person.

THE RESULTS OF YOUR DELIBERATION WILL BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL UNTIL ANNOUNCED IN COURT. YOU MAY NOT DISCUSS THIS CASE WITH ANYONE, DURING OR AFTER THE TRIAL. THANK YOU FOR YOUR JURY SERVICE.

FOR THE DEFENDANT:

I understand that by this agreement I admit that I did the act(s) listed above. I accept the sentence of my Teen Court peers in this case. I will complete my sentence by _____.

Special instructions: _____

I understand and agree that these conditions will be successfully completed no later than _____. Once I meet the above conditions and sentence the court will be notified and my charges will be dismissed. I understand it is my responsibility to fulfill my sentence. If I do not fulfill my sentence by the above date, the court will be notified and I will be sentenced for the above charges.

I also agree that any and all claims for accidents or injury or compensation of any nature growing out of this contract are hereby forever and irrevocably waived.

The above statement was read, signed by, and a copy given to the Defendant on _____.

Youth Defendant

Parent/Guardian

Judge