

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS AND YOUNG PEOPLE



WHAT IS IT?

Final Warnings are only for people who accept they committed the offence. If you don't accept that you committed the offence you should seek legal advice. If you offend again within two years, you will go to Court. The Police will keep a record of the Final Warning until you are 18 years of age, or for five years after it is given, WHICHEVER IS THE LONGER.

The Youth Offending Service will be informed about the Final Warning. They will become involved in order to try to stop you from getting into further trouble.



WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

An officer from the Youth Offending Team will arrange to visit you and your parents or carer, usually at your home. During the visit they will talk to you about the Final Warning and find out why you offended.

A programme of support, activity and advice will be offered to help you stop offending in the future and to make up some of the harm done.

WHAT WILL THE YOUNG PERSON HAVE TO DO?

Following this meeting you may have to take part in a programme of activities.

It could include any of the following:

- To spend time with the officer from the Youth Offending Service talking about the offence and what you need to do to stop offending.
- To make an apology to the victim by letter.
- To apologise personally to the victim at a specially arranged meeting.
- To carry out an activity that benefits your community.

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WHAT IS THE FINAL WARNING SCHEME?

The Final Warning Scheme is for young people aged 10-17 years of age who have committed an offence. There are two levels in this scheme, the Reprimand and the Final Warning. **Both are serious matters.**

WHAT HAPPENS IF I DON'T CO-OPERATE?

- You will be expected to complete the assessment and any programme that is set.
- If you fail to do this, a letter will be sent to the Police and to you and your parents or carers.
- In the event of a further offence and Court appearance, the Court will be told of your failure to co-operate. The Court will take this fact into consideration when dealing with you.

BUT WHAT IF I HAVE PROBLEMS WITH THE PROGRAMME?

We want your Final Warning to succeed. If you have any problems in completing the order let your officer know as soon as possible and we will try to help.

WHAT DO PARENTS/CARERS NEED TO DO?

- To take seriously their responsibilities and to prevent their child from committing further offences.
- To help their child through the Warning by making sure he/she attends as required, and acts in a responsible way.
- Contact the Youth Offending officer if you have any concerns or questions about the order or wish for help yourselves as parents/carers.

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