

## TEEN COURT HEARING GUIDELINES

These are the guidelines that must be followed by all Teen Court hearing participants (offenders and volunteers).

### Dress Code:

- Collared shirt or blouse
- No large logos or designs on shirts
- Long pants or skirts
- Closed toe shoes
- **NO SHORTS OR SLIDES PERMITTED**
- Shirts must be tucked in at all times and pants must be worn at the waist.

*Defendants who are not dressed appropriately are not allowed to participate and will be asked to leave the courthouse.*

Please arrive at the courthouse no later than 4:00 p.m. in order to check in and hear further instructions. This will make things run smoothly and efficiently.

*Teen Court is always looking for great volunteers! We need middle and high school volunteers every Tuesday evening to serve as jurors, attorneys, or clerks during Teen Court. If you are interested in finding out more about the Teen Court Program or volunteer opportunities with Teen Court, please call Youth Services Manager Olivia Hollier at 352.367-4125 or email her at [ohollier@acso.us](mailto:ohollier@acso.us).*

## CONTACT US:

### 9-1-1 FOR EMERGENCIES

352-955-1818 FOR NON-EMERGENCIES

#### ACSO Important Phone Numbers

|                             |              |
|-----------------------------|--------------|
| ACSO Main Administration    | 352.367.4000 |
| Crime Prevention Unit       | 352.374.1800 |
| Crime Stoppers & Gun Bounty | 352.372.7867 |
| Dept. of the Jail           | 352.491.4444 |
| Evidence Section            | 352.367.4076 |
| Human Resources             | 352.367.4040 |
| Narcotics Tip Line          | 352.374.1849 |
| Patrol                      | 352.367.4101 |
| Public Information          | 352.367.4050 |
| Property Unit               | 352.367.4078 |
| Records Bureau              | 352.367.4006 |
| Victim Advocate Unit        | 352.367.4193 |



BROUGHT TO YOU BY:

### Sheriff Chad D. Scott

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ALACHUA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE



TEEN COURT



## WHAT IS TEEN COURT?

Teen Court is a juvenile diversion and alternative sentencing program that offers non-violent first-time offenders ages seven to 17 an important second chance, while still teaching them the value of personal integrity, accountability, and responsibility to their community. The program is one of the primary tools used in addressing juvenile delinquency and recidivism in Alachua County.

Teen Court has been serving the youth and citizens of Alachua County since 1994. The program has been housed at the Alachua County Sheriff's Office since 1998 where it helps facilitate the needs of local school administrators, faculty, and students, as well as Alachua County Sheriff's Office school resource deputies, patrol deputies, and detectives. Furthermore, the Teen Court program enhances the agency's ability to align their efforts with the State Attorney's Office, Department of Juvenile Justice, and Court Administration, as well as other prevention/diversion programs, community agencies, and educational institutions.

Since Teen Court's inception 27 years ago, thousands of juvenile offenders have had their cases resolved through the Teen Court program rather than traditional criminal justice programs.

## WHY TEEN COURT?

According to the Florida Association of Teen courts, teen courts are based on the philosophy that a youthful law violator is less likely to continue to be an offender when a jury of their peers decides the punishment. Giving a juvenile the chance to face his or her peers on both sides of the courtroom allows them to fully understand the weight of their own actions by not only being sentenced, but also being a part of the sentencing process.

## TEEN COURT PROCESS

If you or your child has been issued a Civil Citation by a law enforcement agency, the officer/deputy will direct you to call our office within five days.

Once you have made contact with our office and we have received a copy of the citation from the officer/deputy, we will set up an intake appointment to begin the Teen Court process. There are case workers assigned based on the last name of the defendant:

**\*\*A-J 352.367.4171**

**\*\*K-Z 352.367.4121**

Peer case reviews are held throughout the year at the Alachua County Criminal Courthouse and at Newberry High School's Criminal Justice Magnet Program on Tuesday evenings from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

At the hearing, the defendant must appear and speak in front of a group of their peers. Sentencing recommendations will be handed down by a jury that consists of middle and high school students who are either Teen Court participants or volunteers.

## SENTENCING

### Sanctions (Punishments)

Sanctions are tailored to the circumstances of each defendant.

Some examples of sanctions for first offense misdemeanors include:

- 20-50 hours of community service
- 2-4 sessions of mandatory Teen Court jury duty
- Apology to parents read by defendant in open court
- Educational classes

Some examples of sanctions for non-violent felonies include:

- 50-80 hours community service
- 4-6 sessions of mandatory Teen Court jury duty
- Apology to parents read by defendant in open court
- Educational classes

For more information about the Teen Court program, please call Youth Services Manager Olivia Hollier at 352.367.4125 or email her at [ohollier@acso.us](mailto:ohollier@acso.us).