

Parenting Order



What is a Parenting Order?

A Parenting Order is a sentence of the court which aims to provide support and assistance to parents, enable them to manage their child's behaviour and to support their child in not re-offending.

Why is it given?

Parents have a responsible and, at times, difficult job. There are times when parents need extra help and support. Such a time may be when a child commits an offence.

What happens next?

A parenting officer from the youth justice service will arrange a meeting with you. They will discuss the requirements of the order with you and agree a plan to be completed while the order is in force.

Who is a parenting officer?

Parenting officers work as a member of the Youth Justice Service and are specialists in supporting the parents of young people who have been referred to the team. They will oversee the order, and link in with your child's allocated case manager.

What will I have to do?

You will need to co-operate with the order and attend appointments as required. The Parenting Order requires that you attend group and one-to-one sessions.

Who goes to the group sessions?

Other parents who are in a similar situation to your own. The sessions are arranged through, or run by the parenting support officer.

Can I bring my children?

No, the groups are not able to accommodate children. If this is likely to cause you a problem, please discuss with your parenting officer.

What happens at the group or one-to-one sessions?

The session will include:

- talking about how we communicate with our children and how we can change things;
- setting limits and negotiating (appropriately) with children;
- understanding behaviour;
- exploring parents' needs.

How long will the order last?

The court will set the duration of the order which will range between three and twelve months.

Can I appeal against the order?

Yes – you can discuss this with your solicitor.

Can the conditions be altered?

Yes – if there are exceptional circumstances and you are unable to fulfil the requirements of the order you, or the parenting officer, can apply to the court for the order to be altered.

What happens if I do not co-operate?

We hope this will not happen, as we want to help you. If, however, you do not co-operate you will initially receive a warning letter. If you still do not co-operate you are at risk of being prosecuted for breach of the order. If found guilty of the breach, the maximum fine is £1,000 and you will get a criminal record.

Your rights

If you are unhappy with how you have been treated by a person from the Youth Justice Service you can tell us by:

- talking to your worker or a duty worker;
- telephoning the Youth Justice Service manager;
- asking for information about how to make a complaint.

Isle of Wight Youth Justice Service

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www.iow.gov.uk/youthjusticeservice

If you have difficulty understanding this document, please contact us on 01983 823011 and we will do our best to help you.