

BUFFALO/PEPIN COUNTY TEEN COURT PROCESS



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OPTION

Referral agent, youth with violation and their family discuss teen court as a diversionary option.

REFERRAL

Teen Court referral received from referring agents.

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CONFIRM

Confirmation that youth meets eligibility requirements.

SCHEDULE

Hearing is scheduled for either the Buffalo County Courthouse or the Pepin County Government Center.

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HEARING

Teen Court panel members learn about the violation from the youth and their parent or guardian in a restorative hearing.

ASSIGN

Requirements are assigned and must be completed in 30 days for no further action.

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NOTIFY

Youth with violation and referral agent are notified of completion status.



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

CONTACT US

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Buffalo County Courthouse
407 S 2nd Street, Rm 1210,
PO Box 276,
Alma, WI 54610



Pepin Co. Government Ctr,
740 7th Ave W., Rm 110,
PO Box 39,
Durand, WI 54736



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BUFFALO/PEPIN COUNTY TEEN COURT

The mission of the Buffalo/Pepin County Teen Court is to join together as a council of professional and community members to find ways to enhance positive youth and family development in both counties. The Teen Court will serve to modify behavior of youth with violations by combining positive peer pressure and involvement within our counties, families, schools, and organizations to promote youth development and restorative justice.

WHY CHOOSE THE TEEN COURT PROCESS ?

Teen Court offers eligible youth an alternative to suspension or to appearing in juvenile court. They have an opportunity to receive a meaningful consequence from a panel of their peers.

- Youth are given an opportunity for a real second chance to prove that mistakes can be turned into positive choices.
- Youth demonstrate responsibility for their actions.
- Community service-learning projects can be more meaningful to youth and their respective communities.
- The community is able to see teens being held accountable for their actions.
- Teen panelists gain leadership experience and they also have the opportunity to participate in the juvenile justice system and examine possible career opportunities.
- Adult volunteers are provided the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of our youth.

PEER-TO-PEER

Youth care about the perspectives of their peers, often more than adults. Teen Court cases are heard and decided by a panel of trained high school students who ask questions of youth and their parent/guardian.

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

Panelists provide requirements that are customized to each person and are meant to be educational, not punitive, in order to restore their relationships with peers, school, family and community members.



WHO CAN PARTICIPATE ?

Teen Court serves youth ages 10-16 years old with school or community violations.

Youth with a second violation may be referred and participate in another hearing 12-months after successful completion of the teen court program.

Teen Court referrals may come from the Courts, Human Services, Law Enforcement or School Districts.

Violations may include:

- Disorderly Conduct
- License or ATV Violations
- Damage to Property/Vandalism
- Theft
- Trespassing
- Natural Resource Offenses
- Alcohol, Nicotine, Marijuana/THC, or Vaping
- Truancy
- Misuse of Technology

A hearing fee of \$25-\$50 will be assessed to youth with a violation.
