



What children should expect at youth court

4 August 2025

We worked closely with the [Youth Justice Legal Centre](http://www.yjlc.uk/) [http://www.yjlc.uk/] and [Just for Kids Law](https://www.justforkidslaw.org/) [https://www.justforkidslaw.org/] to explore what children should expect from a solicitor.

This [easy to read leaflet](https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/globalassets/documents/solicitors/youth-court-leaflet.pdf) [https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/globalassets/documents/solicitors/youth-court-leaflet.pdf] explains how solicitors can help them. It was tested with children and solicitors and has been well received. You can [request printed versions](https://form.sra.org.uk/s3/youth-court/) [https://form.sra.org.uk/s3/youth-court/].

You can also use the information in our [good practice guide](https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/solicitors/resources/continuing-competence/good-practice-guide/) [https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/solicitors/resources/continuing-competence/good-practice-guide/] to help your clients understand what to expect from you.

Resources to help children

Use these resources to help explain the youth justice system to children:

- The Ministry of Justice has a [Youth Justice Charter](https://youthjusticecharter.campaign.gov.uk/know-your-rights/) [https://youthjusticecharter.campaign.gov.uk/know-your-rights/] that explains the standards that a child can expect from the people and organisations they might meet in the youth justice system.
- The Youth Justice Legal Centre has [short videos for young people about the criminal justice system](http://www.yjlc.uk/resources/explainer-videos-young-people/) [http://www.yjlc.uk/resources/explainer-videos-young-people/].
- 'Going to court' [http://www.socialworkerstoolbox.com/going-court-booklet-children-young-people-going-witnesses-crown-magistrates-youth-court/] is a booklet for children who are going to be witnesses in court.

Resources for solicitors

- [Keep your knowledge and skills up to date in the youth court system](https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/solicitors/resources/continuing-competence/knowledge-skills/) [https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/solicitors/resources/continuing-competence/knowledge-skills/]
- [Working with other organisations in the youth justice system](https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/solicitors/resources/continuing-competence/other-organisations/) [https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/solicitors/resources/continuing-competence/other-organisations/]
- [Communicating and engaging effectively with children in the youth court system](https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/solicitors/resources/continuing-competence/communication-engagement/) [https://upgrade.sra.org.uk/solicitors/resources/continuing-competence/communication-engagement/]