

Rebound

Youth Justice Forums



Youth Justice Forums were created as an innovative approach to resolve non-violent and minor criminal offences involving youth before the courts.

What is a Youth Justice Forum?

Young people aged 10 to 17 are brought together in a face-to-face meeting with their victims in a safe and private setting. Trained facilitators guide participants to an ultimate resolution, where anything said is held in the strictest confidence. After everyone has expressed their feelings, all the parties decide together how the young person will repair the harm that has been done. The agreement is put into writing and followed up by Rebound staff to ensure completion.

Is the program successful?

To date, more than 99 per cent of the youth involved in the Youth Justice Forums have successfully completed their agreements. Measures may include verbal or written apologies, community service, financial reparations, referrals to other Rebound programs, non-association orders, charitable donations and/or referrals to other social service agencies.

How does the program work?

It provides youth the chance to repair the harm they caused, thus escaping a criminal record. If measures are not completed, youth can be referred back to police for criminal prosecution. The program provides victims a cathartic voice to express how the young person's actions impacted them, and to have a say in how amends are made. Forums ensure a peaceful resolution to help victims deal with feelings of fear, frustration and alienation.

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Supporting Youth
Strengthening Community

How are referrals made?

Police, the Crown's Office or school administrators can make referrals for a number of behaviours, including thefts, fraud, mischief, property offences, bullying, credit card offences and minor assaults. The program is funded by Ministry of the Attorney General.

For more information on the program contact Sarnia-Lambton Rebound at 519-344-2841, or by email at info@reboundonline.com or visit the website at www.reboundonline.com.