

# Memorandum

**Date:** September 12, 2016  
**To:** All Personnel  
**From:** Undersheriff Melekian  
**Subject:** Teen Court



**Sheriff's Bulletin:** 16-20

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## **Description:**

Teen Court acts as an early intervention for offenders by diverting them out of the traditional juvenile system. Youth avoid a criminal record while still being held accountable for their actions. All functions of Teen Court are carried out by teens, and sentences include jury duty, community service, counseling, reflective projects, educational classes, and a parent program.

Teen Court provides real consequences for early juvenile offenders and involves teen volunteers and former Teen Court defendants in the court process. Teen Court does not determine guilt or innocence, only the consequences for an admitted offense. A teen offender can participate in Teen Court if he/she admits guilt and signs a contract agreeing to comply with the sentence handed down by a jury of his/her peers. This is a voluntary program. The referred youth retains his/her right to have a closed hearing in Juvenile Court and may refuse the services of Teen Court. In addition, the acting Judge of Teen Court and Teen Court staff may determine a case is not appropriate for diversion and refuse to accept the referral. Typical crimes referred to Teen Court include alcohol and drug offenses, petty theft, burglary, assault, driving offenses, curfew violations, trespassing, graffiti, and vandalism.

Teen Court is operated in collaboration with the Santa Barbara Superior Court, which provides courtrooms throughout the county for Teen Court hearings. Volunteer judges and attorneys serve as Teen Court Judges to mentor youth in the proceedings. Many nonprofit organizations serve as community service sites.

## **Application:**

Here are the key points to remember for successful utilization of the Teen Court program:

- When a deputy has contact with a minor, age 12-17, and finds they are in violation of a "non-detainable offense" (refer to attached quick reference), the deputy should attempt to refer them to Teen Court instead of Juvenile Probation.
- It is imperative that the deputy conduct a probation check when writing the citation, because youth on formal or informal probation are not eligible for the Teen Court program. Be sure to indicate in your narrative that a probation check was completed and Teen Court

filing is desired (see details below). Note that probation *history* does not preclude them from referral to Teen Court- only active probation. Teen Court staff meet weekly with Probation regarding cases, and if a referred minor has a probation history their participation in the program will be discussed before proceeding.

- The citation or report should include as much contact information as possible for the parents. An incident narrative can be written on the back of the citation or attached. The narrative will be read at the Teen Court hearing.
- If a deputy refers to Teen Court, a PRO-190 **does not** need to be filled out. If the teen fails to attend or successfully complete Teen Court program, the Teen Court staff will fill out a PRO-190 and forward it to Juvenile Probation at that time.
- Referring deputies can contact Teen Court Staff anytime for a status report.

### Teen Court Referral Citations

- A case number must be assigned to Teen Court citations.
- Citation must include parent's contact information.
- Mark the last box in the "Where" section and write in "Teen Court" on the blank line below the list of court addresses.
- Check the "To be notified" box.
- Write a detailed account of the circumstances on the back of the citation so it can be read at the teen's Teen Court appearance.
- Indicate at the end of your narrative that the report is to be **referred to Teen Court**.
- Records will also run the minor to check for a Juvenile Probation record and will attach the return to the citation when it is forwarded to Teen Court. If the minor is found to be on active Juvenile Probation, the citation will be returned to the deputy to be re-worked for forwarding to Juvenile Probation.

### Teen Court Program Intervention:

- Teens referred to Teen Court will be contacted by program staff for an intake meeting.
- The minor must take responsibility for their offense in order to participate in the program.

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT											
NOTICE TO APPEAR											
Date of Violation		TIME		Day of Week		Case No.					
/ /				S M T W T F S							
Name (First, Middle, Last)								<input type="checkbox"/> Owner's Responsibility (Veh. Code, § 40001)			
Address											
Driver Lic. No. State Class Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Age Birth Date / /											
Sex	Hair	Eyes	Height	Weight	Race	Other Description		<input type="checkbox"/> School			
Veh. Lic. No. or VIN				State		Exp. Date		<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL VEHICLE (Veh. Code, § 15210(b))			
Yr. of Veh.		Make	Model	Body Style	Color	<input type="checkbox"/> HAZARDOUS MATERIAL (Veh. Code, § 353)					
Evidence of Financial Responsibility								CHP/IDOT/FUC/ICC			
Registered Owner or Lessee								<input type="checkbox"/> Same as Driver			
Address								<input type="checkbox"/> Same as Driver			
Correctable Violation (Veh. Code, § 40610)											
Yes		No		Code and Section		Description		<input type="checkbox"/> Booking Required See Reverse		Misdemeanor or Infraction (Circle)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>									M I	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>									M I	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>									M I	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>									M I	
Speed Approx.		P.F./Max Spd.		Veh. Lmt.		Safe		<input type="checkbox"/> Radar <input type="checkbox"/> Laser		<input type="checkbox"/> Continuation Form Issued	
								<input type="checkbox"/> Unit #			
Location of Violation(s)								<input type="checkbox"/> City or <input type="checkbox"/> County of Occurrence			
Comments (Weather, Road & Traffic Conditions)								<input type="checkbox"/> Parent's Information <input type="checkbox"/> Collision			
<input type="checkbox"/> Violations not committed in my presence, declared on information and belief. I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California the foregoing is true and correct.											
Arresting or Citing Officer				ID No.		to		Dates Off			
/ /											
Date				Name of Arresting Officer, if different from Citing Officer				ID No.		to	
										Dates Off	
WITHOUT ADMITTING GUILT, I PROMISE TO APPEAR AT THE TIME AND PLACE INDICATED BELOW.											
X Signature											
WHEN: ON OR BEFORE THIS DATE: / / TIME: <input type="checkbox"/> AM <input type="checkbox"/> PM											
WHAT TO DO: FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE REVERSE.											
WHERE: SANTA BARBARA SUPERIOR COURT											
<input type="checkbox"/> Figueroa Division, 118 E Figueroa Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93101, 805-568-3959											
<input type="checkbox"/> Lompoc Division, 115 Civic Center Plaza, Lompoc, CA 93436, 805-737-7789											
<input type="checkbox"/> Miller Division, 312M E Cook Street, Bld E, Santa Maria, CA 93454, 805-346-7550											
<input type="checkbox"/> Solvang Division, 1745 Mission Drive #C, Solvang, CA 93463, 805-686-5040											
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>TEEN COURT</b>											
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> To be notified <input type="checkbox"/> Contact the court clerk for night court.											
Judicial Council of California Form Rev. 09-20-05 Veh. Code, §§ 40500(b), 40513(b), 40522, 40600, Pen. Code, § 853.9											
COURT COPY SEE REVERSE TR-130											



- The minor must attend a Teen Court hearing with their parent/guardian where they are questioned about their offense by a jury of teenage peers with the supervision of an adult volunteer judge.
- The teen jury deliberates and decides on an appropriate sentence based on a range of options tailored to the offense.
- Each sentence includes the following: nights of jury duty, community service, apology letters and/or reflective projects, one or more educational classes, one or more leadership groups, alcohol and drug awareness groups, and/or drug and alcohol treatment as needed, and parents/guardians are required to attend the six-week parent program.
- Clients are randomly drug tested until they complete their contract.
- The minor has three months to complete the terms and conditions of their contract.

**Teen Court Accountability:**

- When the minor completes the program, a Completion Certificate will be sent to the Santa Barbara Sheriff's Office, Records Unit. The certificate will be added to the case in Laserfiche.
- If the minor does not complete the program due to non-compliance, re-offense, or refusal to participate, a notice of refusal or a notice of failure will be sent to the Sheriff's Office, Records Unit who will add it to the case in Laserfiche. Teen Court will fill out a PRO-190 and forward the case to Juvenile Probation for traditional processing.

**Program Goals and Outcomes:**

- Reduce the time between citation and intervention. In 2015 it took an average 35 days from the date of incident to the court hearing.
- Low recidivism upon completing program. Of teens who completed their contract successfully, the 6-month recidivism rate is 8%. (2015 program evaluation data)
- High compliance completing terms of the Teen Court contract. Over 75% of referred teens complete their contract successfully.
- Provide individual wrap-around services to the teen and their family:
  - All minors are screened at intake to determine if treatment or mental health counseling is needed to ensure we are addressing the issues that led to the offense.
  - Parent engagement is important, and all parent/guardians of minors referred to Teen Court are required to attend their child's court hearing and to participate in a six-week parent education and support group.

The following page serves as a quick reference of non-detainable offenses that should be referred to Teen Court.



BERNARD MELEKIAN  
Undersheriff

Teen Court Eligible Charges									
11357(B)	HS	M	POSS MARIJUANA 28.5- GRMS	VC	23223	I	VC	I	OPEN CONTAINER ALC:VEH
11357(E)	HS	M	MINOR POSS MARIJ SCHL GRD	VC	23224	I	VC	I	POSS OF ALC IN VEHICLE
11360(B)	HS	M	GIVE/ETC MARIJ 28.5- GRAM	VC	23225(A)(1)	I	VC	I	OWNER/DRIVER:OPEN ALC:VEH
12509(D)	VC	I	MISUSE INSTRUCTION PERMIT	VC	23226	I	VC	I	STORE OPEN/ETC ALC IN VEH
12814.6(B)(1)(A)	VC	I	PROV LIC:NO DRIVE 11PM-5A	BP	25620	I	BP	I	POSS OPEN ALCOHOL:PUBIC
12814.6(B)(1)(B)	VC	I	PROV LIC:NO PASNGR -20YRS	BP	25658.5	I	BP	I	MINOR ATTEMPT TO BUY ALC
12815(A)	VC	I	LIC LOST/ETC:DESTROY ORIG	BP	25662(A)	M	BP	M	MINOR POSSESS ALCOHOL
12951(A)	VC	I	DRIVE W/O VALID LICENSE	VC	27315	I	VC	I	SEATBELT VIOLATION
16028(A)	VC	I	FAIL PROVE FIN RSP:PO REQ	VC	27315(E)	I	VC	I	PASNGR 16+ NO SAFETY BELT
16028(C)	VC	I	NO PROOF \$ RESP:ACCIDENT	PC	308(B)	I	PC	I	MIP: TOBACCO/SMOKING PARA.
20-1.2	CO	I	NIGHTTIME CURFEW	PC	374.3(A)	I	PC	I	DUMP WASTE:OFFENSE MATTER
20-2.1	CO	I	DAYTIME CURFEW	SM MC	6-3A.01	I	SM MC	I	NIGHTTIME CURFEW
21200.5	VC	M	RIDE BIKE UNDER INFLUENCE	SM MC	6-3A.02	I	SM MC	I	DAYTIME CURFEW
21201(D)	VC	I	BIKE HEADLIGHT/ETC VIOL	WI	601	S	WI	S	RUNAWAY
21212(A)	VC	I	FAIL WEAR HELMET:BIKE:-18	WI	601(A)	S	WI	S	BEYOND PARENT CONTROL
21221.5	VC	M	OPR MOTR SCOOTR UNDER INF	WI	601(A)	S	WI	S	CURFEW
21235(C)	VC	I	OP MOTR SCOOTR W/O HELMET	WI	601(B)	S	WI	S	TRUANCY
21954(A)	VC	I	PED-FAILURE TO YEILD TO VEH.	PC	640.5(A)(1)	I	PC	I	GRAFFITI ON GOVT/ETC PROP
21955	VC	I	JAYWALKING	PC	640.6(A)(1)	I	PC	I	GRAFITI:PROP DAMAGE -\$250
22350	VC	I	UNSAFE SPEED:PREVAIL COND	PC	647E(A)	I	PC	I	OPEN ALC BEV POSTED PREM
23111	VC	I	THROW/ETC CIG/ETC:HWY/ETC	Lmp MC	9.04.010	I	Lmp MC	I	NIGHTTIME CURFEW
23112	VC	I	TOSS/ETC MATTER:HWY/ETC	Buel MC	9.04.030	I	Buel MC	I	DAYTIME CURFEW
23123.5(A)	VC	I	NO TEXT-BASED COMM W/DRIV	Buel MC	9.16.030	I	Buel MC	I	POSS-DRUG PARAPHERNALIA
23124(B)	VC	I	USE CELL PH W/DRIV:UND 18	Buel MC	9.20.020	I	Buel MC	I	NIGHTTIME CURFEW
23221	VC	I	DRINK ALC IN VEH ON HWY	Buel MC	9.20.070	I	Buel MC	I	DAYTIME CURFEW
23222(A)	VC	I	POSS OPEN CONTAINER:DRIVE						