



**Reprimands and
Final Warnings**

- investing in young people to reduce crime

Reprimands & Final Warnings

**Important advice for children and young people and their parents/carers
about REPRIMANDS and FINAL WARNINGS**

Please read the enclosed information – it may well affect your future

Croydon Youth Offending Team

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Working in Partnership

CROYDON YOUTH OFFENDING TEAM

REPRIMANDS AND FINAL WARNINGS

WHAT IS A YOUTH OFFENDING TEAM?

It is a team of professional staff from Education, Health, Police, Social Services and the Youth Service - all working together to reduce offending by children and young people.

WHAT IS A REPRIMAND OR FINAL WARNING?

These replace what used to be called “cautions”. A **Reprimand** will be issued for a minor first offence.

If you commit a second offence—no matter how minor, you will be issued with a **Final Warning** by the police. It is also possible to get a **Final Warning** if your first offence is too serious for a **Reprimand**.

If you have received a **Final Warning** and you offend again—no matter how minor the offence is—you are likely to be charged and sent to court.

Anybody between the ages of 10 and 18 years can receive a **Reprimand** and/or **Final Warning**.

To receive a **Reprimand** or **Final Warning** you must have admitted the offence and shown that you are sorry for the harm you have caused.

REPRIMAND RECEIVED:

Your details will automatically be passed to your local Youth Offending Team (YOT). If you live in the Borough of Croydon we will probably contact you and your parents / carers by phone and have a chat about you, your family and the events that led up to the **Reprimand**.

FINAL WARNING RECEIVED:

You and your parents / carers will be contacted by your local YOT. In most cases a home visit will be arranged. If you live in Croydon the home visit will be followed by a visit to the YOT.

The purpose of these visits is to talk to you and your family about what led up to you receiving the **Final Warning** and to talk to you about your life style, school or college, your family and any problems you may or may not have.

We will also talk about the various schemes on offer in the Borough to see if any suit you. If we feel that you would benefit from taking part in one of these schemes we will refer you.

BAILED FOR REPRIMAND or FINAL WARNING:

If you have been bailed from the Police Station you will have been given a date and a time to return to a “Restorative Justice Clinic” to receive your **Reprimand** or **Final Warning** from a specially trained officer. The purpose of this is to discuss what happened, why it happened and also to find out how you can repair any harm that has been caused.

The “RJ Clinic” usually takes place at Croydon Police Station. Your parents / carers will also be expected to attend. During your time on bail, a member of the YOT will contact you to get any information necessary for the clinic. If you are expecting to receive a **Final Warning**, arrangements will be made to visit you at home followed by a visit to the YOT.

Any victims of your offence will also be contacted to ask their views and it is possible that they will be asked to attend the RJ clinic to speak to you. This can only be done with the agreement of everybody concerned.

THE PURPOSE OF THE REPRIMAND or FINAL WARNING

You have been or will be given a **Reprimand** or **Final Warning** as an alternative to being sent to court. **This is not a “let off”**.

Our main concern is to help you NOT to break the law again.

If you do break the law again you will more than likely be sent to the Youth Court. This can lead to you being found guilty and sentenced!

DO I HAVE TO ACCEPT ADVICE OR YOT ASSISTANCE?

Any activity or assistance offered by the YOT is voluntary **but** take note of the following:-

The YOT have to record what contact they have with any child or young person who has received a **Reprimand** or **Final Warning**. This record includes details of any scheme which is offered.

If you do break the law again and are sent to Court, the YOT can tell the Court whether you co-operated when help was offered.

If you ignore the service being offered by the YOT, any future sentence may be more severe.

PARENTS/CARERS PLEASE NOTE!

If your child offends and is sent to Court, the Court **has** to consider placing **you** on a **Parenting Order**, which can last up to 12 months!

If your child gets a **conviction** it can bar them from certain types of employment.

Please support and encourage your child to take part in any schemes offered.

Our main aim is to prevent any further offending by your child.

HOW CAN WE HELP YOU?

In the case of reprimands we will have sent you details of various schemes available throughout the Borough of Croydon. It is up to you to contact these schemes, which include:

- Youth Activities
- Sport
- Mentoring
- Skills Workshops
- Counselling
- Drop-ins
- Youth clubs and organisations
- Employment & Training

If you need any advice on topics such as **Drugs, Education** or **Health**, please contact the YOT and ask to speak to one of our specialist workers. We can also advise you about parenting support services available in the Borough.

For more details of the YOT and the services on offer to YOU, please visit the rest of our website.

OUR AIM:

“We aim to provide the best possible service in order to stop children and young people offending”

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES:

“We try to provide a service which is fair to all. WE DO NOT accept racist, sexist or any other offensive words or behaviour from our staff or those being offered a service