




Child Youth &
Community Tribunal



Going to a hearing of the CYCT

Information for
Parents/Carers

What is a hearing of the Child, Youth and Community Tribunal?

(The Child, Youth and Community Tribunal is often shortened to or known as the CYCT).

A hearing is a legal meeting arranged to consider and make decisions about children who are having problems in their lives and who may need help or protection. Each hearing has three CYCT members – all are trained volunteers from the local community.

Children and young people can be asked to go to a hearing for lots of different reasons. For example:

- If they have not been attending school without good reason;
- If they have been in trouble with the police;
- If their behaviour is violent or destructive;
- If they have been misusing drugs or alcohol;
- If they have been abused or neglected.

Who will be at the hearing?

Hearings are held in private. The Convenor will tell you in advance who has been asked to attend the hearing. In most cases this will be:

- You;
- Your child, unless the Convenor has told you that they do not have to attend;
- The people who look after your child;
- Three CYCT members who will make the decision; and
- The Convenor who will record what has been decided.
- The Convenor may also ask other people – for example a teacher or social worker.

Also, if you want to, you may bring a friend or relative along to support you.

What information will I receive?

The Convenor will notify you of the date and time of the hearing and will send you some reports. Copies of the reports will also be sent to the three CYCT members before the hearing.

Do I have to go?

Yes, the hearing is about your child. It is important that you are there to let the people at the hearing know what you think.

What will happen at the hearing?

The CYCT members will listen to everyone and will consider all of the information. They will then make a decision and explain the reasons for their decision. You will be sent a copy of the decision in writing after the hearing.

What decisions can be made at the hearing?

- The CYCT members can decide whether a legal order called a care requirement is needed to help your child.
- The CYCT members can decide that they need more information to help them make a decision about what is best for your child and they can adjourn the hearing and continue it at a later date.
- The CYCT members can decide to discharge the case.

What is a care requirement?

A care requirement is a legal order that means that the Committee for Health and Social Care is responsible for making sure that your child is getting the help that they need. It can contain conditions stating where your child is to live and other conditions which the CYCT members think necessary. The care requirement must be reviewed by a hearing at least once a year and can be continued, varied or ended.

What if I am not happy with the decision of the hearing?

You have the right to appeal the decision of the hearing to the Juvenile Court. You should consult an Advocate as soon as possible as an appeal must be made within three weeks of the hearing.



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