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YOUNG ADULT
COMMUNITY
 CONFERENCING

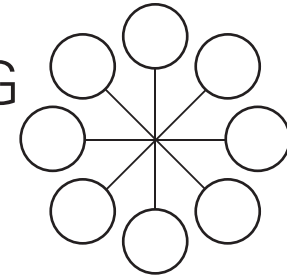


What is YACC?

A program of
Center for Resolutions
 26 East Fourth Street • P.O. Box 1498 • Media, PA 19063
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A Guide for Victims

YOUNG ADULT **COMMUNITY** CONFERENCING



What is it?

YACC is a unique, comprehensive Community Service program designed as a sentencing alternative for 18–24 year olds charged with summary-level “quality of life” offenses such as noise violations, disorderly conduct, public drunkenness, and underage drinking.

YACC is a structured forum in which the young adult offender and trained representatives of the victimized community meet together to determine a meaningful, appropriate consequence that benefits the community.

YACC is a circle process rooted in restorative justice practices. It seeks to address victim needs, offender competencies, and community responsibility in repairing the harm done by crime.

Restorative justice involves victims and community in the criminal justice system. Offenders achieve accountability through taking responsibility and making amends.

Who does it?

Victim(s), if any are identified, will be invited to participate.

—or—

Community Representatives invited to participate in the YACC program are trained volunteers who have been negatively impacted by the types of behavior for which the offender has been cited.

Young adult offenders may be given an opportunity to participate in exchange for some portion of their fines and costs...

- if they are 18–24 years old, and
- if they are cited for a non-traffic crime, and
- if they have pled or been found guilty of that crime

Support persons for the offender and for the victim, whether invited by them or appointed on their behalf, will also be included to establish a safe environment for all participants.

A **facilitator**, trained in community conferencing, will lead the group process.

Why do it?

- It’s an opportunity to let the offender know how their actions have affected you.
- You have a voice in deciding how the harm should be repaired.
- You have the chance to build relationships to keep this from happening another time.
- Community Conferencing is less costly and more effective than court.
- You have the opportunity to hear what happened from another perspective.
- You are welcome to have supporters there with you.
- You may resolve the incident in a timely manner.

Note: Offender participation in the YACC program is not a right. This alternative sentencing option is offered to defendants at the discretion of the court. If the terms of the contract created at a YACC session are not fulfilled, or if the offender does not cooperate with the program, fines and costs sentenced by the court remain due.