
STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

1998 No. 1504

The Criminal Justice (Children) (Northern Ireland) Order 1998

PART II
GENERAL

[^{F1}Youth conferences

3A.—(1) In this Order “youth conference”, in relation to a child and an offence, means a meeting, or series of meetings, for considering how the child ought to be dealt with for the offence.

(2) A meeting does not constitute, or form part of, a youth conference unless the following persons participate in it—

- (a) a youth conference co-ordinator (as chairman);
- (b) the child;
- (c) a police officer; and
- (d) an appropriate adult.

(3) The Secretary of State must designate persons employed in—

- (a) the civil service of the United Kingdom; or
- (b) the civil service of Northern Ireland,

to be youth conference co-ordinators.

(4) Except where the child is in the care of an authority (within the meaning of the Children (Northern Ireland) Order 1995 (N.I. 2)), “appropriate adult” means a parent or guardian of the child or, if no parent or guardian of the child is able and willing to participate in the meeting—

- (a) a social worker of the appropriate authority or a legal representative of the child; or
- (b) if no-one within sub-paragraph (a) is able and willing to participate in the meeting, any responsible person who has attained the age of 18 and is neither a police officer nor a member of the police support staff.

(5) Where the child is in the care of an authority (within the meaning of the Children (Northern Ireland) Order 1995), “appropriate adult” means a social worker of the authority.

(6) The following persons are entitled to participate in any meeting constituting, or forming part of, a youth conference—

- (a) the victim of the offence or, if the victim is not an individual, an individual representing the victim;
- (b) a legal representative of the child acting as his adviser; and
- (c) if a community order or youth conference order is in force in respect of the child or the child is subject to supervision under a juvenile justice centre order or custody care order, the supervising officer.

(7) The supervising officer is—

- (a) in the case of a probation order, the probation officer responsible for the child's supervision under the order;
 - (b) in the case of a community service order, the person who is the relevant officer for the purposes of Articles 13 and 14 of the Criminal Justice (Northern Ireland) Order 1996 (N.I. 24) ;
 - (c) in the case of a combination order, either of the persons mentioned in sub-paragraphs (a) and (b);
 - (d) in the case of an attendance centre order, the officer in charge of the attendance centre specified in the order;
 - (e) in the case of a community responsibility order, reparation order or youth conference order, the responsible officer; or
 - (f) in the case of a juvenile justice centre order or custody care order, the probation officer or person designated by the Secretary of State who is supervising the child.
- (8) A youth conference co-ordinator may allow other persons—
- (a) to participate in any meeting constituting, or forming part of, a youth conference; or
 - (b) to attend any such meeting for any purpose specified by him,
- if he considers that their participation, or attendance for that purpose, would be of value.
- (9) Where a youth conference is convened with respect to a child and an offence, neither—
- (a) the fact that it has been convened; nor
 - (b) anything said or done (or omitted to be said or done) in or in connection with any meeting constituting, or forming part of, the youth conference,
- is admissible in any criminal proceedings as evidence that the child committed the offence.]

Changes to legislation:

There are currently no known outstanding effects for the The Criminal Justice (Children) (Northern Ireland) Order 1998, Section 3A.