

# The Parenting Order

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## What is the Parenting Order?

The Parenting Order:

- Was created as a way of making parents accountable for the offending of their children, whilst at the same time, giving them the support necessary to take proper care and control of them
- Imposes a requirement that the Parent or Guardian attends counselling or guidance sessions where they will receive help and support in dealing with their children. The Parent or Guardian can be required to attend these sessions no more than once a week for up to six months.
- It can also include specific requirements imposed by the Court. These could include seeing that the child/young person attends school each day, or is at home by a certain time each evening. This element can last up to 12 months.

## What is the Aim of the Parenting Order?

The Parenting Order:

- Aims to prevent the young person from committing further offences.
- Can make **any** natural Parent or Guardian accountable for the behaviour of their child.
- Aims to take into account all the background information about the young person's family, and then provide the appropriate packages of support to help them to become better parents.

## What will the Parent/Guardian Have to Do?

The Magistrates will explain clearly the requirements imposed. If a Parent or Guardian is not present and is subject to these requirements they will be informed by post or in person.

The parenting coordinator at the Youth Offending Team (YOT) will be allocated to you and will work with you for the duration of the Parenting Order. An appointment will be set up at a time that is convenient, where the Court requirements will be addressed and further appointments and referrals can be made.

If the requirements of the Court are proving difficult to comply with, through no fault of the Parent/Guardian, they can discuss these issues with the supervising Officer.

The Parent /Guardian should maintain good contact with the parent worker and attend all appointments made for them.

## **What will happen if the Parent/Guardian fails to co-operate?**

If the Parent or Guardian fails to comply with any of the requirements outlined by the Magistrates, the parent worker will attempt to find out the reasons why these requirements have not been met.

It is the duty of the parent worker to inform the Police of any 'non-compliance' with the Parenting Order. The Police can choose to prosecute the Parent or Guardian and a hearing will take place in the **Adult** Magistrates Court.

The Magistrates are able to impose a Fine of up to £1000 for non-compliance with a Parenting Order alongside other Orders or a Community Sentence, e.g Youth Rehabilitation Order (formally a Probation Order).