



STEPS TO JUSTICE

YOUTH CRIMINAL JUSTICE

An OJEN workshop demonstrating a CLEO
public legal information resource.



CLEO

Community Legal Education Ontario
Éducation juridique communautaire Ontario



True or false?

1. My boss is allowed to ask me about my youth records. If I refuse to disclose that information, my boss can still access it through private companies.



True or false?

2. As a young person charged with a crime, I have the same rights as an adult charged with a crime.



True or false?

3. My youth record won't impact my ability to get a job as an adult because everyone knows that youth records are automatically destroyed when you turn 18.



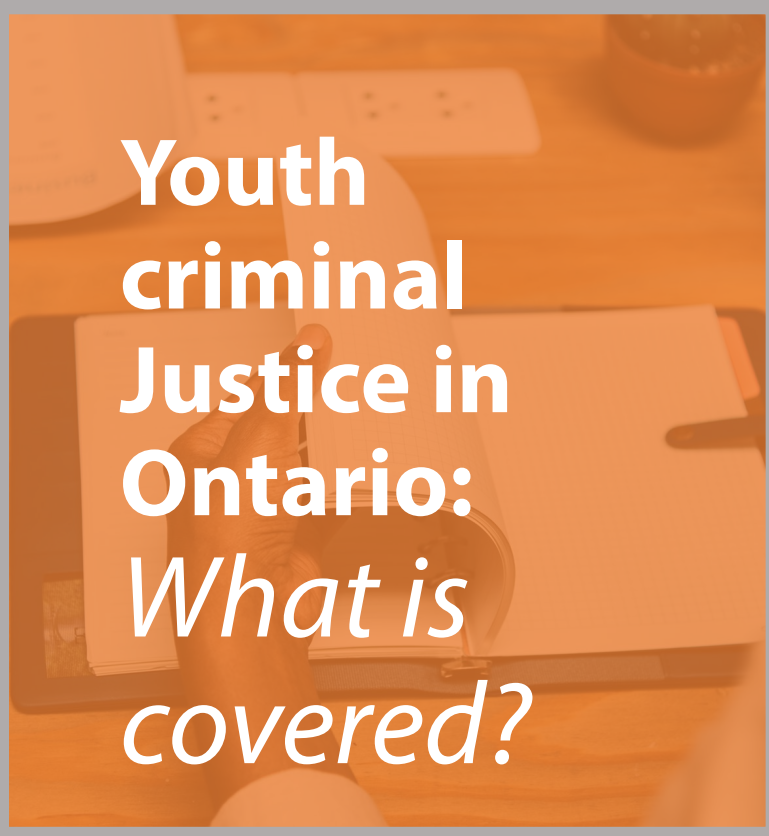
True or false?

4. My friends and I were hanging out in the park when two police officers came up to us and started asking us a bunch of questions about a break-in that occurred at a house down the street. They told us that if we don't answer their questions, they could arrest us



True or false?

5. I was just charged with a non-violent offense. I'm really worried about going to jail but my lawyer says that jail is only used as a last resort for youth offenses.

A photograph of a person pointing at a whiteboard in a classroom setting, overlaid with an orange semi-transparent box containing text.

Youth criminal Justice in Ontario: *What is covered?*

- The *Youth Criminal Justice Act (YCJA)*
- Rules about criminal records for youth
- Impacts of a youth criminal record
- Rights of youth
- Indigenous youth and criminal law
- Guiding principles in youth criminal law
- Diversion programs
- Differences for youth and adults



Real Life Legal Problems *Demonstration Scenario*

I'm 17 years old and looking to make some extra money by applying to work part-time at McDonalds. However, I was charged with shoplifting a few years ago and I'm worried that my youth record might affect my chances of getting hired. How can I find out if my youth record will affect my chances of getting a job?



Steps to Justice



Steps to Justice
Your guide to law in Ontario

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Steps to Justice


Step-by-step information about legal problems.
Reliable, practical, and easy to understand.

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- Abuse and Family Violence
- Criminal Law
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- Health and Disability
- Housing Law
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- Tribunals and Court

Live chat
Mon-Fri 11am-1pm



I'm 17 years old and looking to make some extra money by applying to work part-time at McDonalds. However, I was charged with shoplifting a few years ago and I'm worried that my youth record might affect my chances of getting hired. How can I find out if my youth record will affect my chances of getting a job?

Start on the Steps to Justice topic, "Youth records" with the question, "How does having a youth record affect me?" Some questions:

- If an employer asks if this person has been convicted of a crime, what is the legally correct answer to that question?
- How long are youth records publicly accessible?
- What sorts of information are accessible on a criminal record and judicial matters check?
- Why is it important to get your own background check before applying for new jobs?
- Can employers access your youth record during a background check?



**Using the
Steps to Justice
Website**



Group Work



1. Navigate to the Steps to Justice website:
<http://stepstojustice.ca>
2. Read your scenario with your group.
3. Try to identify the main legal issues.
4. Imagine that you are the person in the scenario. Use the Steps to Justice website to answer the questions on your handout.
5. As you browse, try to find out more about how the law would affect the person in your scenario. What does it say? What are their options?
6. Record your answers on the handout.

If you get stuck, ask for help!





Large Group Scenario

FOCUS AREAS:

- 1) Diversion
- 2) Indigenous youth in the criminal justice system
- 3) Youth records and travel

My friends and I were riding our bikes around town when we came upon an abandoned warehouse. We thought it would be fun to go inside and check it out. We hopped the fence and broke a window to get inside. As we were leaving, we ran into the owner and he was really mad. He had already called the police and had us all charged with destruction of property under the *Youth Criminal Justice Act*.

Our case was handed over to the Crown office. The Crown is considering a diversion program. The Crown lawyer said that he was offering us something called Crown EJM where he will agree to withdrawal the charges against us except for extra judicial sanctions (EJS). The Crown lawyer says the EJM will consist of attending a two-month program. I do not know what EJM is or what a EJS is. Also, the Crown lawyer told us that we must accept his offer, or we will go to jail.

I don't know what to do. Me and some of my other friends are Indigenous youths, but the I heard we need documents to prove it. I don't have any documents that prove my Indigenous status. My family is also planning a vacation 8 months from now to Cuba. The Crown lawyer says I won't be able to go on the vacation with my family because I will have a criminal record. Is this true? What are my options?