

# COURT

If someone in your family is going to criminal court you might want to check this information out

## WHAT?

**YOU WILL PROBABLY HEAR** a lot of new and confusing words: indictable, summary, mention, committal hearing, informant, prosecutor just to name a few. This website can explain them for you [www.legalaid.vic.gov.au/legalwords.htm](http://www.legalaid.vic.gov.au/legalwords.htm)

A court case can be really short or go for months depending on the crime, the amount of evidence and the number of witnesses. It can also be adjourned (put on hold) many times. There are different courts for different levels of crime: Magistrates, County & Supreme Courts. [www.legalaid.vic.gov.au/cl.your\\_day\\_court.pdf](http://www.legalaid.vic.gov.au/cl.your_day_court.pdf)

## REMAND

**IF YOUR MUM OR DAD** are placed in remand (a prison for people who haven't been sentenced yet) it may be about their wellbeing before they go to court or concerns about the suspected crime.

They will be taken directly to court from the remand prison and kept in a cell below the court. The only person who can visit them there is the lawyer or other court based staff. No-one is allowed to go near them when they are at court either.

**"My mum spent all night looking up remand centres to try and find out where dad was."**

## SENTENCING

**THERE ARE HEAPS** of different sentences that get handed out in court. It can be anything from fines, Suspended sentences, Community Based Orders, Intensive Correction Orders, Drug treatment orders, Home Detention, Combined Custody & Treatment Orders and Imprisonment to name a few. With even more new terms to understand you can look them up on <http://www.justice.vic.gov.au/wps/wcm/connect/DOJ+Internet/Home/Sentencing/>

THESE FACT SHEETS ARE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 12 YEARS AND OVER

## WHAT THE?!

**BY NOW YOU MAY BE FEELING** a bit embarrassed about what has happened? You might decide that you just can't turn up to footy or dancing anymore. Maybe other kids have been nasty or made fun of your mum or dad. Perhaps kids who you thought were your friends or family friends are ignoring you. This can make you feel pretty isolated from everything you used to be a part of. You might not understand exactly what has happened and could be feeling frustrated that no-one seems to be explaining anything to you.

## OMG, EVERYONE'S TALKING ABOUT IT!

**IT'S HORRIBLE** when the court case gets mentioned on TV or in the paper. You can feel like absolutely everyone knows but no-one comes up to see if you are okay. Not the teachers, not your coach, not your neighbour. Or maybe everyone wants to know the 'gossip'. You need to think about who and what does really matter to you.

If it is school, then work out what teacher you might feel certain you can talk to about this. If it is footy, then do the same. Remember that you are not the person who has done the wrong thing and it is unfair when others treat you as if you are.

## WHAT ABOUT ME?

**IF SOME OF THESE FEELINGS** don't go away, it probably means you need to talk to someone. Brothers, sisters, grandparents, uncles and aunts might have different thoughts and feelings about what has happened.

Even if you disagree, you are all in the same boat so it can still feel good to just let it all out. They need to do it too. Otherwise you can talk with someone at VACRO.

## WANNA KNOW MORE?

- Need to understand what's going on?
- How can I get my life back?
- What else can I do?
- Want to ask some questions about what we do?

**Contact VACRO** 'a community organisation providing information and support for those involved with the criminal justice system' on 9605 1900 or freecall 1800 049 871 or look at other factsheets on our website for more info:  
<http://www.vacro.org.au/youth/index.html>