

## **Code of Conduct**

### **Teen Court Participants/Volunteers**

#### **I. Preamble**

Teen Court participation is a privilege, not a right. That privilege can be lost if you fail to act in a responsible manner and within the confines of the law. As a teen court participant, you are expected to serve as a role model for your peers at all times. You therefore must maintain high standards of conduct and encourage other members to do the same. You should be temperate and dignified and refrain from all illegal and morally reprehensible conduct. Because of your position, even minor violations of law may tend to lessen public confidence in the entire teen court program. Since teen court is designed to promote law-abiding behavior, your behavior must be consistent with that purpose.

Listed below is the Code of Conduct, which you must follow. If you fail to conduct yourself in conformity with these rules, you shall be deemed guilty of misconduct, which will be subject to disciplinary action, according to the procedures set out below, which can include removal from the teen court program.

#### **II. Code of Conduct**

As a participant of teen court you must abide by the following rules:

- Rule 1**            I will not engage in illegal conduct.
- Rule 2**            I will not engage in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation.
- Rule 3**            I will not knowingly use perjured or false testimony or statements.
- Rule 4**            I will reveal any false statements, testimony or other evidence used, or any other fraud perpetrated, in any Teen Court proceeding.
- Rule 5**            I will maintain the confidentiality of the Teen Court proceedings.
- Rule 6**            I will not violate the rules and regulations adopted by my school district.
- Rule 7**            I will participate free of bias or prejudice toward any other person's age, race, sex, religion, national origin, or disability.
- Rule 8**            I will appear promptly and prepared for all Teen Court training sessions and court appearances, unless excused.
- Rule 9**            I will perform my role as effectively and competently as possible.
- Rule 10**           I will not engage in undignified or discourteous conduct during Teen Court session.
- Rule 11**           I will not ask any question that is intended to harass or degrade a witness.
- Rule 12**           I will not let any outside influence, such as other members, parents, fellow students or my own self-interest, affect my actions and decisions in how to proceed,

- Rule 13** As a defense attorney, unless an offender otherwise directs, I will not reveal a confidence or secret of an offender or use such confidence or secret to the disadvantage of an offender.
- Rule 14** I will treat with courtesy and consideration all persons involved in teen court proceedings.
- Rule 15.** I will not knowingly fail to disclose or exchange evidence which I am required by the teen court training to reveal to my opponent.
- Rule 16.** As prosecutor, I will not communicate with the offender in the case except during cross-examination.
- Rule 18.** As a youth court member serving as a prosecutor or defender, other than during the performance of my role during a court proceeding, I will not communicate with a juror about the case under consideration.
- Rule 19.** I will abide by all my obligations and responsibilities as specified in the teen court training manual.
- Rule 20.** A teen court member, I will dress appropriately when participating in a teen court proceeding.
- Rule 21.** I will notify the teen court coordinator immediately if I am arrested, convicted of a crime or suspended from school.
- Rule 22.** I will report to the teen court staff or any board member conduct of other members I believe to be in violation of these Rules of Conduct.
- Rule 23.** I will cooperate with the board of directors or any disciplinary committee in any investigation involving a violation of these rules of conduct.

The Teen Court Board reserves the right to impose appropriate discipline upon any participant who violates the code of conduct, including suspension or removal from the program.

---

Teen Court Youth Signature/Date

---

Teen Court Coordinator Signature/Date