



Konfliktrådet

engelsk

What are “youth punishment” and “youth follow-up”?

– information for young offenders and their
parents/guardians



Information booklet published by the Secretariat
for the National Mediation Service

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The Mediation Service (Konfliktrådet) will go through the booklet with you
and explain what youth punishment and youth follow-up are.
You can take a copy of the booklet home with you after the meeting.

For more information, visit: www.konfliktraadet.no

1. WHAT ARE “YOUTH PUNISHMENT” AND “YOUTH FOLLOW-UP”?

Youth punishment (*ungdomsstraff*) and youth follow-up (*ungdomsoppfølging*) are sanctions devised especially for young offenders.

Youth punishment is imposed by the court and can last from four months to two years (or in some cases three years).

Youth follow-up is decided by the prosecuting authority and can last from four months to one year. Youth follow-up is a voluntary arrangement, which means it requires your consent (you have to agree to it for it to happen).

The choice and length of the sanction will depend, among other things, on how serious the offence was. What these penal sanctions (punishments) have in common is that you will help draw up a youth action plan (*ungdomsplan*) with conditions that you have to comply with during your sentence, and you will have a follow-up team to support you in this process.

As part of your sentence, we will talk about your offence, and you could, among other things, be asked to meet with the victim or victims of your offence, if they want to meet with you (this is called a restorative justice meeting (*gjenoppsettende møte*)).

Both youth punishment and youth follow-up focus on helping you make changes in your life, take responsibility for what you have done, and work with us to shape a more positive future for yourself. You must be motivated and prepared to make an effort, but your youth coordinator and follow-up team will always be there to give you help and support, even when things get difficult and your motivation dips.

The goal is for you not to break the law again.



What are your thoughts on this? Do you have any questions?

2. PREPARATIONS

In order to draw up a good action plan, we must get to know you. We will therefore speak with you about how you are doing, how you would like your life to be, what needs to happen to keep you from breaking the law, and what you yourself can do to reach this goal. What do you need help with, and who can help you? Who are the important people in your life? We are also going to speak with other people who know you well, in order to decide what to include in your action plan. In addition, we are going to speak with you about who you think should be part of your follow-up team.

3. START-UP

Your sentence begins with an action plan meeting (ungdomsplanmøte), where you and your youth coordinator draw up an action plan in collaboration with the follow-up team. The plan will list the things you must do during your sentence.

The Mediation Service will also start working to determine who you perhaps should meet with, as part of the restorative justice process.



What are your thoughts on this? Do you have any questions?



4. YOUTH ACTION PLAN AND FOLLOW-UP TEAM

Your **action plan** will list the things you need to do in your everyday life. The goal behind the conditions outlined in the plan are intended to stop you from breaking the law in the future. You will participate in the development of the plan. You can bring a lawyer with you when the action plan is drawn up.

If you disagree with the content of the action plan, you can appeal to the Mediation Service up to three weeks after the action plan meeting. Your appeal will be considered by the Secretariat for the National Mediation Service. You have the right to get help from a lawyer in this process. Below are some examples of conditions in an action plan.

ACTION PLAN FOR HENRIK PART 1 – OVERVIEW

During my youth punishment sentence, I will do the following	
Condition 1	Go to school
Condition 2	Go to meetings with BUP (the youth mental health service)
Condition 3	Talk to Police Officer Marte Lillekroken
Condition 4	Not take illegal drugs, take regular drug tests and meet with my substance abuse counsellor
Condition 5	Go to football practice
Condition 6	Be home no later than 22:00 on weekdays and 23:30 on weekends



All of these conditions are described in more detail in the action plan. Here is an example.

PART 3 – CONDITIONS

Details of what Henrik must do during his youth punishment period

BASIC CONDITION: DO NOT COMMIT ANY NEW CRIMINAL OFFENCES		
Condition 3	Meetings with the police Henrik will meet with Marte Lillekroken every other Tuesday at 15:00, if not otherwise agreed. Among other things, they will discuss how Henrik can avoid situations that could lead to him committing new criminal offences.	
What		
Where	Hamar Police Station or other agreed place.	
When	Start: 01/08/2024	End: 01/08/2025
Purpose	Keep Henrik away from negative influences and help him avoid reoffending.	
Follow-up		
Who follows up	Name: Marte Lillekroken	Role/workplace: police officer, Hamar Police District
Special agreements	Marte will remind Henrik of their meeting by sending a text message the day before their meeting.	

Your follow-up team will support you through the entire sentence. The team is made up of people responsible for the conditions listed in your action

plan, as well as other support persons.

The team may include members of your family or someone from the police, correctional services, your school, child welfare services (barnevernet) or health services, as well as any other important people in your life, such as a coach, neighbour or family friend. When you are serving a youth punishment

sentence, representatives from the police and correctional services will always be part of your follow-up team.





5. RESTORATIVE JUSTICE PROCESS AND MEETING

The Mediation Service will make arrangements for a restorative meeting between you and those affected by your offence, if this is possible. Restorative justice is about repairing the damage and making amends for what has happened – as much as possible.

At a restorative justice meeting, both sides will get an opportunity to talk about what happened, what things have been like for them afterwards, and what it will be important going forward.

Sometimes other people apart from the immediate victims of your offence have also been affected, and they may also feel the need to have a restorative justice meeting with you. There may also be other people you need to talk it out with. Your youth coordinator can help you find out who you may need to have a restorative meeting with.

An important part of the sentence is to take responsibility for your actions, so you need to be prepared to talk about the criminal offences you have committed, with your youth coordinator or others in your follow-up team.

6. INFORMATION SHARING

Youth punishment and youth follow-up require your consent (for you to say yes) to confidential information about you being shared by members of your follow-up team and the National Mediation Service's Coordinating Group (KOG). Your consent will cover the sharing of information both before and during your sentence. Only information relevant to the implementation of your sentence (how it is carried out) may be shared.

KOG includes representatives from the police, prosecuting authority (police prosecutor), mediation service and correctional services. Sometimes representatives from health services, child welfare services and other services are also included. KOG shares information about you to assess whether your case is suitable for youth punishment or youth follow-up. If necessary, KOG can also advise your youth coordinator during your sentence.

Your follow-up team shares information about you so its members can support you and make sure that you are complying with the conditions in your action plan.



What are your thoughts on this? Do you have any questions?



7. WHAT WILL BE REQUIRED OF YOU

You must comply with the conditions of your action plan. The most important thing is to keep all of your appointments, participate in required activities and comply with conditions, and work with your follow-up team.

You must:

- help draw up the action plan and stick to it with help from your follow-up team.
- talk about the offence you committed and take responsibility for your actions.
- turn up at the agreed place and time when required during your sentence.
- provide a medical certificate if you are ill.

You must not:

- commit any new offences while you are serving your sentence.
- attend meetings with the follow-up team or others, or participate in any other meetings/activities in your action plan, while you are under the influence of drugs or alcohol. If you are suspected of attending a meeting while under the influence of drugs or alcohol, you may be asked to take a drug test.
- travel abroad while serving your sentence. In some cases, your youth coordinator can grant you permission to travel abroad. Remember to apply for permission well ahead of time.
- threaten anyone who is helping you serve your sentence or exert a negative influence on the people around you.



8. WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU FAIL TO DO WHAT IS REQUIRED OF YOU

If you fail to comply with your action plan or meet any other requirements, you will face the following reactions:

- verbal warning
- non-compliance meeting

Stricter conditions may also be included in the plan, for example that you:

- have to stay away from certain places.
- have to stay away from certain people.
- will be banned from drinking alcohol or using drugs and have to take drug tests.
- have to meet with the police, correctional services or others in your follow-up team.
- have to check in with the police, correctional service or mediation service.

If you still fail to comply, a new action plan with new conditions may be drawn up.

If your sentence is a youth punishment, the court may decide that you are not allowed to visit certain places, that you have to be home by a certain time, or that you are not allowed to have any contact with certain people. These conditions will be enforced through the use of electronic monitoring (ankle monitor).



OPPFØLGINGSTEAM



GJENOPPRE
MØTE

UNGDOMSOPPFØLGING
UNGDOMSSTRAFF

UNGDOMSPLAN

RELASJONSBYGGING

Further violations could also lead to service of your sentence under the Mediation Service being terminated. If your sentence is youth follow-up, the prosecuting authority will reconsider your case. If your sentence is youth punishment, the consequences could be that the court decides that you have to serve either all or part of your prison sentence, or that your youth punishment is converted to a community sentence or a suspended sentence.

If you break the law again before you have completed the full term of your youth sentence, the prosecuting authority will decide what will happen to the sentence you are currently serving.



What are your thoughts on this? Do you have any questions?

The information in this booklet is based on the following Norwegian laws:
Youth punishment: Chapter 8a of the Penal Code

Youth follow-up: Section 71a(2) of the Criminal Procedure Act

Sentence implementation: Chapter 4 of the National Mediation Service Act

Defence counsel: Section 96(3), Section 99 and Section 100(2) of the Criminal Procedure Act



TTENDE

GJENNOMFØRE
UNGDOMSPLAN





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