



CHANNAHON PEER JURY PROGRAM  
*In cooperation with Channahon Police Department*  
YOUTH DELIVERING JUSTICE

What is Channahon Peer Jury Program?

Peer Jury is a program operating under the auspices of the Channahon Police Department. The program is designed to provide a meaningful and remedial method of dealing with selected juveniles (under age 17) without reference to the court. It does not determine guilt or innocence. Peer Jury is about youth accountability, competency development and community safety, taking into account the referred teen, community and victim. A case is diverted to the Peer Jury for hearing by a jury of juveniles and an adult moderator when (1) the referred teen admits having committed the offense; (2) the juvenile officer determines that such a diversion is appropriate; and (3) the referred teen and his/her parent or guardian consent in writing to participate in the Peer Jury Program.

When these conditions are met, the referred teen and his/her parents or guardian are scheduled for a hearing before the Peer Jury panel at a definite date and time. At the hearing, a juvenile officer reads the charges, states the possible sentence if the offense was committed by an adult and summarizes the facts of the case. The referred teen is then questioned by member of the Peer Jury. The referred teen and his/her parents or guardian then withdraw while the Peer Jury deliberates and structures the consequences for the offense. The referred teen and his/her parents or guardian are then recalled and informed of the consequence. Adjustments, if necessary, are made to allow for schedule conflicts and a completion date is fixed. The referred teen is then given a written copy of the agreement and a date (usually 30 to 60 days later) for a discharge hearing. The referred teen can then repair the harm that was created by the offense and become a productive member of society. A restorative agreement usually includes some form of individualized community service.

When the victim participates, they are asked if they would like to ask any questions or make a statement. The victim also may take this opportunity to address their needs in repairing the harm. If the victim is not present, a victim impact statement can be read in the victim's place.

The referred teen completes the agreement, which is monitored by the Peer Jury Coordinator, who is available to the referred teen and his/her family in case any problems arise, and may contact the referred teen in necessary.

At the discharge hearing, the referred teen and his/her parents or guardian appear for the final time. The victim may be invited back. The Peer Jury, which may or may not be the sentencing panel, reviews the referred teen's performance and questions the referred teen about his/her experiences while satisfying the agreement. If satisfactory, the referred teen is discharged. If the performance is incomplete or unsatisfactory, the discharge hearing may be continued or the referred teen remanded to the juvenile officer for appropriate court proceedings.