

## Variation and discharge of the Order

Parents' circumstances and needs may change during the Order.

If this arises parents can apply directly to the Court, or after discussion with the Youth Offending Team Officer an application can be made by him/her to the Court.

## What if I don't keep to the conditions of the Order?

If a Parent does not comply with the requirements of the Order then Breach Proceedings will take place.

This means that the parent will be summonsed to appear in the Magistrates Court where either an Absolute Discharge, Conditional Discharge, Curfew Order or a Community Rehabilitation Order can be imposed, in addition up to a £1000 fine can be imposed.

Hopefully, problems can be resolved before Breach Proceedings take place. It is important that you, as a parent, keep in regular contact with those who are working with you to inform them of any change in circumstances which affect your ability to attend.

**“Attending the parenting group meant I was able to talk to him better and deal with our problems.”**

*A Parent*

More information on Parenting can be found at:

[www.parentingsupport.co.uk](http://www.parentingsupport.co.uk)

## For further information please contact:

Bradford & District  
Youth Offending Team  
Bank House  
41 Bank Street  
Bradford  
BD1 1RD

Telephone:  
**01274 436060**

Fax:  
**01274 436061**

E-mail  
[yot-info@bradford.gov.uk](mailto:yot-info@bradford.gov.uk)

### Equal Opportunities

At all times you have the right to be treated fairly and without discrimination. This means the Youth Offending Panels and YOT staff will treat you fairly whatever your race, colour, religious beliefs, gender, sexuality or disability. You are also expected to behave equally fairly towards other people.

### Complaints Procedure

If you feel you have been treated unfairly or unreasonably by the YOT or Youth Offender Panels you can make a complaint. To do this, contact the Bradford & District YOT Manager at the above address.

### Data Protection

The Bradford & District Youth Offending Team deals with personal data under the Data Protection Act 1998. Some of these may be sensitive such as criminal offences, proceedings and convictions. We may share some or all of them with other Council departments, our agents, service providers or other third parties. When involving any third party we shall take all reasonable steps to ensure that they will keep your personal data secure and treat it confidentially. If you are worried about giving us your personal details or about us sharing them with others, please discuss this with the member of staff who is dealing with your case. We will explain what you can do.

### Accessibility

These information leaflets are available in a number of different formats and languages from our Bradford office.

[www.bradford-yot.co.uk](http://www.bradford-yot.co.uk)

**BRADFORD & DISTRICT  
YOUTH OFFENDING TEAM**

Parenting Orders

*a straightforward guide to  
parenting orders and how  
they affect you*

**“My relationship with my son was at rock bottom - I just didn't know how to cope.”**

*A Parent*

*Parents are the most influential people in their young person's life but often the relationship between parents and especially their teenagers can become strained. This can cause a great deal of anguish for parents who can often feel powerless as a result.*

*Bradford Youth Offending Team is committed to helping parents by looking at their problems and reinforcing their strengths and skills. Parenting Orders are one of a range of different parenting interventions provided by the YOT.*

## What is a Parenting Order?

The Parenting Order comes under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to provide help and support to Parents when their child gets into trouble.

A Court can make an Order on a Parent/Guardian of a young person who is either:

- 1 Convicted of an offence.
- 2 Placed on an Anti Social Behaviour Order.

Parenting Orders can also be made if a Parent/Carer has been convicted of an offence under Sections 443 or 444 of the Education Act 1996 - failure to comply with School Attendance or ensure the child's regular attendance at School.

**Parenting Orders are not designed as a punishment although, to begin with, it may feel that way.**

The Courts and the Youth Offending Team recognise that many parents can have periods when the relationship with their child becomes difficult, especially when they become teenagers.

The aim of this Orders is to offer help, guidance and support to Parents to assist them in keeping their child out of trouble.

## Who can be given a Parenting Order?

Any parent, married or unmarried, or carer that a young person lives with, including any Step Parent. It can also be made separately on a parent who may not live with a child but has regular contact.

## How long is the Order?

Parenting Orders can last up to 12 months, and can have two components.

These are:

### Core Component

Parents attend counselling or guidance sessions no more than once a week for up to 3 months, as specified by the member of the Youth Offending Team responsible for supervising the Order.

### Additional Component

The Court can impose an additional element which may require Parents to exercise control over their child's behaviour, for example ensuring they attend School regularly.

## How does the Court decide to issue a Parenting Order?

Before the Magistrates decide to make a Parenting Order they will carefully consider all the information before them.

They must be satisfied that the making of the Order would help prevent the young person from re-offending.

To help the Magistrates reach their decision they will request information from the Youth Offending Team.

## What if I can't attend Court on that day?

Parenting Orders can still be imposed without a parent being present.

**It is strongly recommended that parents do attend Court, to support their child, and to have the opportunity to express their views if asked to by the Court.**

If you are ill or have an emergency you should contact your Solicitor straightaway. You may be asked to provide a sick note or proof of reason for absence.

## Right of Appeal

Parents do have the right to Appeal against the making of a Parenting Order. This can be done through a Solicitor who can advise you of your rights.