

## What are the Possible Dispositions?

### Mandatory Dispositions

\$25 Program Fee

#### Jury Terms

Defendants serve on at least one up to six jury panels in a future sentencing hearing.

#### Community Connection

Volunteer hours are performed for a non-profit organization or victim in the community.

All Drug or Alcohol Offense must follow Lifeways Recommendations

### Accountability

Increase awareness on how behavior effects all victims and give opportunity to repair harm.

Apologies, restitution, victim/ offender mediation, making amends

### Community Safety

Focus on involving the community so youth learn to be connected.

Community Connection Hours

### Increasing Competencies

Focus on increasing skills to be a productive participant in society and a good citizen.

Skills builders, education, counseling, goal setting, encourage ongoing positive activities

### Other Option Include

but are not limited to:

Verbal or Written Apologies, Essays, Projects, Counseling, Restitution, Mentoring, Research, Interviews and more.

### Teen Court Does Not

Sentence time at JSC, take away a driver's license, put youth on formal probation or add fines.

## Where is it?

City/County Public Safety Building  
Pennington County  
State's Attorney's Office  
300 Kansas City Street, Rapid City, SD  
The Teen Court Office and Teen Court Hearings are located on the 4th Floor

## What Do the Youth Say?

### Mission Statement:

*"To provide youth the opportunity to be held accountable for their actions through a partnership with their peers in the community."*

### Community Partners

Rapid City Police Department  
Pennington County Sheriffs Office  
Pennington County MADD Chapter  
Lifeways  
Rapid City Area Schools  
Pennington County School Districts  
Behavior Management Systems  
Gordon Prevention Services  
And three pages more!

Office of the  
State's Attorney

## Pennington County Teen Court

Member of the  
South Dakota  
Teen Court Association  
and the National  
Association of Youth  
Courts



"Teens Working Together  
to Create a Better  
Community"

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Click on Juvenile Diversion

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Pennington County Teen Court  
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Rapid City, SD 57701

## Teen Court... What is it?



**Teen Court** is a collaborative effort between the Pennington County State's Attorney, the 7th Judicial Circuit Court and The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. Juvenile offenders, ages 13-18, are referred to Teen Court by the State's Attorneys as an alternative to the formal juvenile court system.

**Teen Court** is a sentencing hearing where offenders' cases are presented to a jury of their peers by teen volunteer attorneys. The peer jury then decides a constructive disposition based on the mitigating and aggravating circumstances of the case.

**Teen Court** is a "second chance" for those youth who have made a poor choice(s) and have little or no previous criminal history. Hopefully, after the Teen Court experience, the youth will stay free of the criminal court system.

**Upon successful completion of the program, offenders' cases will not be formally charged.**

## Who Participates?

### Defendants:

Juveniles who plead guilty to misdemeanor offenses that may include:

- Disturbance of school
- Minor consumption/possession of alcohol
- Petty theft
- Simple assault
- Disorderly conduct
- Ingestion/Possession of marijuana or drug paraphernalia.

• **Intentional Damage of Personal Property**  
Any type of offense can be heard by Teen Court as long as it is referred by the Office of the State's Attorney.



### Volunteers:

**Teen Volunteers** are trained to perform the roles of attorneys, bailiffs, court clerks, jurors, exit officers and more. A Teen Advisory Committee provides feedback and assists staff in decision-making and program planning. Eighth grade and older.

**Adult Volunteers** may perform roles such as Judges and Jury Monitors as well as volunteer recruitment and training, publicity, and assistance in overall programming.

## Why Teen Court?

### Teen Court...

- **helps** youth realize they will be held accountable for their problem behavior.
- **educates** youth on the impact their actions have on themselves and others. (i.e. victims and the community)
- **builds** competencies in youth by providing instruction in how the legal system functions and how to communicate and resolve problems with peers more effectively.
- **provides** a meaningful forum for youth to practice and enhance newly developed competencies.
- **assists** the juvenile court system by reducing backlog, court time, and expense.
- **benefits** the community by reducing and preventing crime and providing community service volunteers.
- **encourages** all who participate to recognize the impact on victims and what needs to be done to repair the harm.

