

The Parent Guide to Juvenile Plea Bargains

Help! My child was just offered a plea bargain. What happens if they accept it?

Your child will be adjudicated delinquent which means they will have a juvenile record. They will have a disposition (punishment); this may be part of the plea agreement or might be left up to the judge.



If the disposition of probation is given as a result of their plea deal, your child must adhere to the conditions of their probation given in court.



The length of probation varies. Most youth put on probation have to stay on probation until the judge decides they have been rehabilitated.

What rights would my child give up by pleading guilty?

- To testify at trial
- To appeal
- To be presumed innocent
- Right to be proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt

What are my child's options?

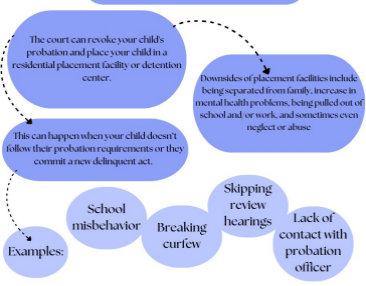


What do I need to know about probation?

Possible Probation Conditions

Mental health treatment, drug and alcohol treatment, anger management treatment	Restrictions on who they may associate with (e.g., restricted from seeing negative peers)	Family therapy
Pay fees/restitution	Electronic home monitoring or house arrest	Extracurricular or community based activities
Community service	Job training/work readiness programming	Regular drug testing
Curfew	School requirements (regarding school attendance or performance)	Or anything else the judge decides to require

Non-Compliance of Probation



COLLATERAL CONSEQUENCES

- School expulsion
- Ineligibility for public housing
- Sex offender registration
- Immigration issues or deportation
- Difficulty getting a job
- Difficulty getting into colleges
- Fines and fees
- Bad credit if they can't pay court costs
- Limits on owning a gun
- Ineligibility for some professions
- Being unable to join the military
- Trouble getting a lease

Going through the system may impact your child's idea of, justice, and their trust in the law.

What You Can Do

Your role is to support your child. Help your child collect information, ask the right questions, and think it through—considering long-term consequences of all their options.

Your **CHILD** makes the final decision regarding taking a plea bargain. Notify your child's attorney if your child does not understand any part of the plea deal.

- ### Questions to Ask Yourself!
- Does my child understand what is happening and what their options are?
 - Does my child understand the possible punishments if they take or turn down the plea bargain?
 - How will it affect my child's future if they do or do not take the plea deal?
 - What questions can I ask my child's attorney to help my child make the best decision for themselves?