

Absolute Discharge / Conditional Discharge / Fine

Absolute Discharge

A young person is given an absolute discharge when they admit guilt or are found guilty but no further action is taken against them.

Conditional Discharge

A young person receiving a conditional discharge receives no immediate punishment. A period of between six months and three years is set and, as long as a young person does not commit a further offence during this period no punishment will be imposed. However, if the young person commits another offence during this period they can be brought back to court and be sentenced for the original offence that they had the conditional discharge for and any new offence.

Fine

The size of a fine reflects the gravity of the offence committed and the offender's financial circumstances.

For a young person under 16 years of age, the payment of a fine is the responsibility of their parent/carers and their financial circumstances will be taken into account when the level of a fine is set.