

## What are the Possible Dispositions?

- √ Accountability
- √ Community Safety
- √ Increasing Competencies

### Property Offense Class

A two hour class focusing on the short and long term effects of theft.

### Substance Abuse Education

Referrals made to Lifeways Advisors and Classes

### Just For Us

A two hour class highlighting choices and consequences.

### MADD Victim Impact Panel

In this informative session, compelling stories from victims of impaired driving crashes are shared.

### Jury Terms

Defendants serve on at least one jury panel in a future sentencing hearing.

### Community Connection

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

### Other Options include but are not limited to:

Verbal or Written Apologies, Essays, Artwork, Counseling, Restitution, Mentoring, Tours of Facilities, Research, Interviews and more.

**The Teen Court cannot 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.*

## Who Provides Our Classes?

Pennington County MADD Chapter  
Youth and Family Services  
Lifeways  
Volunteers of America

Office of the  
State's Attorney

## Pennington County Teen Court

Member of the  
South Dakota  
Teen Court Association



"Teens Working Together  
to Create a Better  
Community"

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Click on Juvenile Diversion

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## 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 13-17, 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.

The defendant has a \$25 fee and 90 days to complete his/her court requirements.



### 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.

**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.

