

What Is The Referral Process?

Girls are referred to Girls Court after being charged with an offense by the prosecutor. After consultation with a defense attorney girls are referred for an evaluation to determine eligibility for the program.



Opt-Out Period: Girls Court is voluntary. During the first month trial period of the program, also known as the “opt-out” period, participants may choose to have their case returned to the Juvenile Court. All their rights will be restored except for the right to a timely adjudication which will start at the next court hearing following the youth's decision to voluntarily withdraw from the program. Once participants have completed the opt-out period, they will sign a final order and can only withdraw from the program after a request is made to the judge. If a withdrawal is approved, participants do not have a right to trial and the judge will determine guilt based on the facts presented in the police report(s).



Kitsap County Juvenile Superior Court

1338 SW Old Clifton Road
Port Orchard, WA 98367
360-337-5402
Fax: 360-337-5404

Contacts for further questions about Girls Court:

Jessy Baker
Court Services Officer
360-337-5468
jbaker@kitsap.gov

Shannon Porter
Treatment Court Supervisor
360-337-5466
sporter@kitsap.gov

Laura E. Yelish
Yelish Law
(360) 876-9900
Laura@yelishlaw.com

Kitsap County Juvenile and Family Court Services

Girls Court



Committed to providing
compassionate and effective
services to youth, their families,
and our community.

What Is Girls Court?

Girls Court is a voluntary, therapeutic treatment program, for girls aged 14-17 years. It is a pre-adjudication court and is designed to encourage the development of strength, courage, confidence, honesty, and effective communication skills. Our goal is to enhance girls' ability to take full advantage of their talents, academic interests, career goals, and potential for healthy relationships. Girls Court is a minimum of twelve (12) months for felony level offenses and nine (9) months for misdemeanor offenses. The program must be completed within two (2) years.



Who makes up Girls Court?

Committed supportive adults including:

- Judge
- Probation Counselor
- Defense and Prosecuting Attorneys
- Therapist
- Partnerships with community organizations.

When is Girls Court?

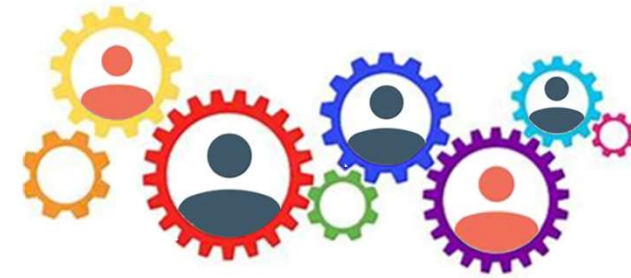
Girls Court is held once a month to review the progress of the participants and their compliance with program conditions. Youth will also attend monthly activities arranged by Girls Court staff that include skill building and positive group engagement. Parents are strongly encouraged to attend their youth's hearings and activities to help support their progress throughout the program.

Benefits:

When girls voice their ideas and opinions in a safe environment, it strengthens their confidence and encourages them to express themselves more fully.

- Girls will have better access to intensive services.
- Be heard regularly in court.
- Work with a supportive team.
- Learn skills to resolve barriers.
- Gain connections with community supports.

Upon completion of the program there will be a graduation and the charge(s) referred to Girls Court will be dismissed.



Basic Requirements of Girls Court:

- Mandatory court and activity appearances monthly or as determined by the team.
- Parent/Guardian participation and support.
- Weekly contact with probation officer.
- School attendance and participation or employment (if education requirements are completed).
- Follow the rules of the home/placement.
- Attend and participate with counseling and services as recommended.

Engaging youth and families.

The Girls Court team work with participants to create individualized case plans and set goals. Case plans will be created with youth and their families focusing on risk level, areas of need, and identifying appropriate services. Conversations with the youth and families start at the initial intake process and continues throughout the program.