

(2) Regarding the kinds of dispositions that are possible after a finding or plea of guilt -- (a) without conviction, dismissed, (b) conviction without penalty, and (c) conviction with penalty -- (and perhaps there are others I have missed?) I am interested to know several things:

(i) If a guilty plea constitutes a "criminal record" for a young person, what is the value of the without conviction, dismissed disposition? Do you see this as offering a young person more chances for the future -- that is, it is not a conviction, thus one can say "I was not convicted" of an offence. Or is there something else here?

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(ii) What is the general rule of thumb you use in handling cases of those young people who keep coming back. That is, what is the hierarchy of the successively more severe outcomes you can impose? At what point do you decide that a custodial disposition is appropriate?

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(3) What do you see to be the ideal relationship between the work of the family conference team (and perhaps also the police officers associated) and that of the court? That is, should the court be consulting members of these (or other) groups for further information about a case, or should the court operate more at "arm's length"?

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(4) What do you think are the major strengths and weaknesses of conferencing?

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