

## ST. CLAIR COUNTY TEEN COURT MISSION

The St. Clair County Teen Court is an alternative approach to juvenile justice that holds first-time non-violent youth respondents accountable through a remedy imposed by their peers. The Teen Court emphasizes accountability and responsibility rather than traditional punitive measures, thereby focusing on balance and restorative justice which is the policy statement of the Illinois Juvenile Court Act.

### THREE RESTORATIVE JUSTICE RULES

1. How can you hold the respondent accountable for his or her offense?
2. How can you help the respondent repair the harm to all victims?
3. What does the respondent need to become a more productive member of the community?



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 **GREENSFELDER**  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

## ST. CLAIR COUNTY TEEN COURT

A PROGRAM OF THE ST. CLAIR COUNTY  
JUVENILE JUSTICE COUNCIL



SAVING OUR  
FUTURE, ONE TEEN  
AT A TIME.

# ST. CLAIR COUNTY TEEN COURT

## PROGRAM

Teen accepts teen court. The teen acknowledges responsibility for the offense. The teen signs a consent to participate in teen court and the parent/guardian sign a consent. The teen appears and participates in one of two Teen Court programs that are both based on the rules of restorative justice.

## TEEN COURT PEER JURY

Teen has a hearing before a jury of peers. The peer jurors hear about the offense from the police report and ask questions of the teen and parent/guardian. After the peer jurors conclude the questioning, they deliberate and determine what remedies should be performed by the teen. The questioning and deliberations and remedies are based on the rules of restorative justice. The peer jurors announce the remedies to be performed to the teen upon completion of the deliberations.

## TEEN COURT RESTORATIVE JUSTICE CONFERENCING

Teen, parent/guardian and victim meet for a restorative justice conference. Other participants include peer jurors, community members and facilitators. The conference participants meet in a circle. The police report is read. The teen and victim each describe

the event in their own words and the harm that occurred to all the victims. Then all the participants and the teen and victim discuss what remedies should be performed by the teen according to the rules of restorative justice. All participants must agree on the remedies to be performed by the teen.

In peer jury cases and conferencing cases, the teen is directed to complete the remedies within 90 days. Upon completion, there is a graduation event where the teen talks about what remedies they performed and what they learned. The teens are applauded and congratulated by all the participants and everyone share in hospitality after graduation.

## OUTCOMES

If the remedies are completed successfully, the charge is never filed and there is no record of any criminal offense.

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Teen Court is funded by the Teen Court Foundation of St. Clair County, a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization. To learn more about Teen Court or to make a tax exempt contribution, visit the web site at:

[www.teencourtfoundationscc.com](http://www.teencourtfoundationscc.com)

Contributions also are accepted by mail at 12 South 2nd Street; Belleville, IL 62220.

# PEER JURY JUROR SELECTION PROCESS

Peer Juror Attributes:

- Be age 13 or in the ninth grade through age 17 or in the twelfth grade.
- Possess an interest in helping peers.
- Be committed to the peer jury – Have a willingness to work with police, other teens, and the community.
- Be of good character.
- Live in St. Clair County.
- have no personal involvement with law enforcement within the past five months.
- Personally initiate interest in the program with parent or guardian approval.

Agree to participate as a juror if assigned by the Teen Court. If interested in becoming a Teen Court Juror, contact school administration.

If interested in becoming an adult volunteer, email the Teen Court Administrator at [teencourtstclaircounty@gmail.com](mailto:teencourtstclaircounty@gmail.com).