

What are the requirements to be a juror ?

- Must complete and submit an application, and be selected to participate as a juror.
- Must be between the ages of 13 and 17 years old.
- Must live in or attend school in Palatine.
- Must not have had an arrest or personal involvement with law enforcement 6 months prior to applying.
- Must take an oath of confidentiality during the course of Peer Jury proceedings. Jurors cannot talk about Peer Jury cases to anyone, including family, friends, and other jurors when Peer Jury is not meeting as a group.
- Must inform an adult moderator or police officer of any absences. Three (3) unexcused absences or five (5) absences within a nine (9) month period will remove a juror from Peer Jury.
- Must not joke, laugh, or socialize while the offender is in the room or during deliberations.
- Must not chew gum, or consume food or beverages during the hearing.
- Must not wear shorts, t-shirts with pictures or writing (except the Peer Jury shirts), sweats, tank tops or hats. Jurors represent the Palatine Police Department and should dress appropriately.

How are Peer Jury personnel selected ?

The appointing authority for all Peer Jury personnel is the Chief of Police of the Palatine Police Department. Adult panel moderators and the Peer Jury Coordinator are individuals in good standing in the community who are selected on the basis of appropriate investigation and interviews by both police and Peer Jury personnel. Peer Jurors are recruited through advertisement, followed by the submission of an application and extensive interviews. After selection, all personnel are provided with training and orientation before assuming their duties. After a suitable period, a former offender who satisfactorily completed a sentence may be invited to become a Peer Juror. Such individuals make a unique contribution to the process. Visit the Palatine Police Department website at: www.palatine.il.us to download an application.

Palatine Police Peer Jury Program Coordinator :
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Palatine Police Department Peer Jury Program

*Youth alternative
program for first
time offenders.*

What is the Peer Jury program ?

It is a program operating under the auspices of the Palatine Police Department which is designed to provide a meaningful and remedial method of dealing with selected juvenile (ages 16 and under) offenders without involvement in the Juvenile Court. The process is confidential. It does not determine guilt or innocence, but instead makes recommendations and/or imposes a "sentence."

When does a case go to a Peer Jury hearing ?

A case is sent to the Peer Jury for a hearing when (1) the offender admits having committed the offense (2) the officer determines that such a disposition is appropriate, and (3) the offender



and his parent or guardian consent in writing to such a disposition and sign a waiver of liability and confidentiality. Once these conditions are met, the

offender and his/her parent(s) or guardian(s) are scheduled for a hearing before the Peer Jury panel, which consists of approximately six to twelve juveniles and an adult judge coordinator at the Palatine Police Department.

What happens at a Peer Jury hearing ?

At the hearing, a teen clerk will read the charges, summarize the facts of the case, and state the possible sentence as if the offense were committed by an adult. The offender will be questioned by the adult judge coordinator and members of the jury as to his/her involvement in the case. After questioning, the offender and his/her parent or guardian will withdraw from the room while the jury deliberates and determines an appropriate sentence. The offender and parent or guardian are called back into the courtroom and informed of the sentence.

What types of sentencing does the Jury hand down ?

The sentence is customized for each offender. Sentencing options include, but are not limited to:

- performing community service hours
- writing a letter of apology to the victim
- writing a report that is related to the offense
- attending educational workshops and/or counseling
- attending adult bond hearings



The offender is given a written copy of the sentence. Typically, the offender is allotted one or two months to complete the sentence and will be scheduled for a status hearing and/or a discharge hearing in front of the Peer Jury the following month.

What happens at a return hearing ?

The offender and his/her parent(s) or guardian(s) must appear at the status and discharge hearings. The adult judge coordinator and the panel of jurors, which may or may not be the same as in the sentencing panel, review the performance and question the offender about his/her experiences while performing the sentence. If satisfactory, the offender is discharged. If the performance is incomplete or unsatisfactory, the hearing may be continued or the offender may be remanded to the Police Department for the appropriate court proceedings.



Is Peer Jury confidential ?

The Peer Jury proceedings and records are absolutely confidential. No list of offenders appearing before the jury is published. The press is not permitted to report individual cases. The jurors take an Oath of Confidentiality and are sworn to confidentiality.