

Under section 98 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, evidence will be given on oath, except the evidence of a child under 14, which is given unsworn. Section 34 of the Children and Young Persons Act 1933 requires the attendance of a parent or legal guardian at court for any person under 16 years of age. The court will require information about the young person's background, home surroundings and family circumstances prior to sentence. This should be provided by the youth offending team or social services.

As with adults, community penalties are available but a conditional discharge is not. In addition, the youth court should consider whether to make a parenting order, or whether the individual support order should be amended.