

CHARTER OF RIGHTS AND DUTIES for MINORS WHO ARE ENTERING THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SERVICES

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FOREWARD

All minors subject to criminal proceedings, whichever service they gain access to or in whatever stage of the case they may be, fall under the responsibility of the Department of juvenile justice. This department operates in the interest of the minor, ensuring their safety and, in conjunction with the Juvenile Judiciary, implements the most suitable educational project for the minor to follow. The supervisory role that the juvenile justice system carries out in collaboration with other educational institutions (schools, vocational training bodies, families, local services and health authorities), implies that the minor must always be treated in full respect of his dignity. In this way, the experience within the juvenile justice system can assume its educational value. International charters, which contain the latest directives and guidelines to be followed by juvenile justice services lay out the principles, defined by the Legislator, regarding respect for the minor.

The guidelines in question relate to the importance of ensuring: that minors are always given the opportunity to express their opinions as well as their needs and that these opinions and needs are properly taken into account; that the staff is appropriately qualified and trained to interact with minors; that the taking in charge is carried out by a multidisciplinary team; that the minor is guaranteed the right to education and health care; that they are not exposed to degrading treatment or living conditions, but on the contrary to high standards; that they understand all of the distinctive aspects of this particular stage of their lives.

Full respect of dignity is also promoted by ensuring that minors always have staff at their disposal with which they can interact and that they always have the possibility of maintaining the necessary contact with family members, a lawyer of their choice and any other key person in their lives. Furthermore, it is essential that they are adequately informed of their rights and duties.

It is made clear through these directives that a great deal of importance must be given both in ensuring that minors can actively participate in decisions made in their interest and ensuring timely and accurate information regarding their rights, duties, stage of criminal proceedings and their performance within the educational projects. These operative principles should be adopted by all juvenile justice personnel, regardless of their role or title.

Juvenile justice personnel know, moreover, that the rules governing the justice system are: impartiality of service, in that each minor should be treated as an individual without distinction or privileges; identification and responsibility, namely that each staff member must be identifiable and directly responsible for his or her actions; service flexibility and accessibility, that is, guaranteeing assistance in dealing with the duties expected of the minor and continuity in care provision; confidentiality regarding information gathered that must always be treated and reported in accordance with the minor's privacy, a practice that aims at guaranteeing the maximum dignity possible; clarity and transparency, meaning that communication with minors should be easy for them to understand and nor in any way too formal or bureaucratic.

Although personnel should always be available to help minors understand the various aspects of the juvenile justice system, an extra help has been created - in accordance with the Minister of Justice - in the form of the Charter of Rights and Duties. Written in a clear and simple way using direct language, it is designed to communicate more effectively. Minors can consult it at any time to learn what they can and cannot do and what they should and should not expect .

Upon the minor's arrival it is the juvenile justice personnel's responsibility to give him/her the Charter in the required language.

A **glossary** is included in the **Charter of Rights and Duties** to help minors understand the terms they may not be familiar with.

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TASKS OF JUVENILE JUSTICE

Juvenile justice services have the task of following up on the decisions made by juvenile judges concerning minors who are believed to have committed a crime or that have been found guilty.

In carrying out their tasks, juvenile justice services always have your wellbeing and safety in mind and are committed to helping you do the right thing in compliance with the law. Some of the tasks they help you with are: making sure you reflect upon the behaviour that led you to enter the juvenile justice system and then helping you to assume your responsibilities by answering for your actions and repairing the damage or injury that your actions caused; sustaining you in your studies or acquiring a trade in order to be able to work.

All decisions will be made after having listened to you and given you the opportunity to express your point of view. The objective is to involve you in the decisions because your commitment ensures that this experience is useful. However, you must know that even if you don't agree with the decisions made by the judge, you must comply with them. These decisions have been made for your own good and because the crime for which you must answer provides for a penalty, a penalty which must be enforced even against your will. In any case, you can count on the help of the personnel of the juvenile justice services with whom you can talk to about any difficulties you may have.

THE AIM OF JUVENILE JUSTICE

Even if you have committed a crime, the aim of the juvenile justice system and of society is not just to punish but to help you to change and to understand what you have done so that you do not get in trouble again. With the help of your family, your school, local social services and psychologists you can strive for a better life than the one you had before, free from the risk of committing other crimes.

JUVENILE JUSTICE SERVICE

Juvenile justice services are: social services. Holding facilities, rehabilitations centres, penal institutions and day centres.

In all these facilities the dedicated personnel will listen to you and your family, explain what is happening and illustrate your situation to the judge.

In addition, the personnel will be there to monitor the various measures ordered by the judge, supporting you and making sure that you comply with the provisions and commitments you have made.

If you are a foreign minor you will have the possibility to speak about your country of origin with a cultural-linguistic mediator who, together with social workers, will help you keep in contact with your family, verify the status of your Italian residence permit and help you gain access to all the services you are entitled to.

Keep in mind that:

- If you are detained or arrested for a crime, you may be taken to a **holding facility** where you will be met by prison officers, social workers and educators. You can remain at the facility for a maximum of four days during which you will go before a judge for a hearing to decide whether you have to stay in a juvenile justice facility, this is called a validation hearing.
At the centre the prison officers and the educators will explain the rules which you must abide by and help you understand what will happen regarding your case. They will also help you, by analyzing your lifestyle, your relationships and your objectives, to start thinking about how you can start changing your life around after this experience.
During the **hearing**, the judge will decide on one of these **measures**: to dismiss the case; to impose certain obligations; house arrest, placement in a rehabilitation centre; to be held in custody of a juvenile detention centre.
- 1) Dismissal of the case: this is when there is no evidence against you. In this case you are returned to your family or, if you have none, to the care of social workers.
 - 2) Conditions: these are certain obligations you will have to agree to, like going to school or frequenting a course, as they will be useful for your education.
 - 3) House arrest: in this case you are forced to stay at home and may only leave the house if authorized by the judge. In fact, you will probably only be allowed to go to school or to frequent a course or an organized sporting activity.
 - 4) Placement in a rehabilitation centre: you will be placed in a centre where you will have to respect the other youths living alongside you and the rules that the educators will explain. You may also have certain obligations imposed by the judge. You will be permitted to leave the centre, with the supervision of the social workers or educators, only for authorized study or sport activities.
 - 5) Prison custody: you will be taken to a juvenile detention centre where you will be met by prison officers and educators. You will be expected to respect the rules and follow any educational program that has been set out for you. You will also be able to participate in sports and

recreational activities and be encouraged to explore all the sides of your personality in order to better yourself.

In the rehabilitation and detention centres you will be able to see your parents and relatives who may come and visit you on fixed days and times.

All the measures which limit your freedom last for a predefined length of time depending on the kind of offence you have to answer for. The judge will tell you exactly how long you will be deprived of that freedom.

In any case, keep in mind that the trial will continue even after the initial precautionary measures. It will end only when you have the preliminary hearing before a juvenile justice magistrate, who will then pronounce his ruling.

Throughout all the provisions decided upon by the judge, a social worker from the Social Services for Minors office will support you and your parents. The role of the social worker is to support you in your obligations and difficulties, to check on your progress and assess your awareness of the crime you committed.

Remember that if you do not respect the provisions the judge may decide on tougher sanctions, as would be the case if you didn't respect the terms of a house arrest. In that event the judge may order that you enter a rehabilitation centre. Likewise if you try to leave the rehabilitation centre or do not respect its rules, the judge may rule that you spend a month in a juvenile detention centre.

- Whether you are in a reception centre as a precautionary measure or you have been reported for a crime but remain a free citizen, you will be appointed a social worker who will talk to you and your family and help you throughout the entire duration of your trial. Besides explaining the legal aspects, the social worker's job is also to help you realize the mistakes you have made and better yourself from an emotional and psychological point of view. During this time you may also be asked to meet the person or people you harmed (victim-offender mediation) and/or do community service.

The social worker will then write a report for the hearing presenting your case: your history, your skills/resources, your problems/difficulties and also your projects.

- During the hearing, the judge may suspend the sentence and decide to put you on probation for a period of time. In this time you will be asked to successfully complete a project, for example; going to school with proficiency, taking a job training course or doing community service work. At the end of this period, in another hearing, you will have to prove that you have been able to follow the conditions set forth by the judge. If the judge is satisfied that this experience has served to make you think about and learn from your mistakes, then he will throw out the sentence. If, on the other hand, you have not successfully completed the requirements and commitments then the trial will continue.
- The judge may also decide to sentence you to a Juvenile detention centre but you may not have to serve your sentence in the detention centre as there are alternative facilities to prison: house arrest, being placed in custody of social services, day-release and semi-detention. If your sentence is more substantial, through your lawyer, you can ask for the trial custody with social services alternative. The judge will then establish a project in which you must participate and successfully complete.

Remember, however, that if you fail to meet your obligations or if you commit another crime while on probation with social services, you will go to prison.

CUSTODY FACILITY RULES

There are rules that must be observed within the holding and rehabilitation facilities, not to mention the juvenile detention centre. Upon your arrival in one of these places you will be given all the information necessary. For example: which areas are yours and which are shared; where and at what time you will eat (there will be three meals a day); what activities you will be doing; who the people that work there are and what their roles are. Furthermore, you will be told how long you will have to stay there and, if you get transferred to a different centre, you and your family will be notified beforehand. The entire personnel is there to guarantee your wellbeing and your safety. They will listen to you, help you with any difficulties and sustain you in your studies or work experience and guide you in all the other activities.

- **Show respect towards people and places:** remember that it's your duty to show respect for the people that are in the centre with you. Whether it's other young people like yourself or the personnel that works there. You must also have respect for the place you find yourself in.
- **The right to keep in contact with the people dear to you:** It's your right to ask to speak to your family and those who mean something to you and the personnel will do everything they can to facilitate this. If the judge has imposed certain conditions regarding this issue, they will be clearly explained to you.
- **The right to healthcare:** juvenile justice personnel will take care in establishing your physical and mental health with regard to any particular needs you may have. If ever you feel unwell do not hesitate to tell the personnel who will determine whether you need medical assistance or psychological help.
- **Personal hygiene:** your stay in one of the centres demands adequate clothing and personal hygiene.
- **The right to practice your religion:** if you are religious and feel the need to practice your religion, whatever it may be, once you inform the personnel they will see to it that you have the possibility to do so.
- **The right to continue your studies or job training:** if your school studies have been interrupted you have the right to continue them both at an elementary and secondary level. You can continue your schooling with qualified teachers that work within the juvenile justice system and your achievements will be recognized by regular schools and institutes.
- **Your diet:** if, for any reason you need to follow a special diet, you are entitled to ask for it.

What you must not do: the use of drugs and alcohol is severely prohibited; taking medication without a doctor's prescription; communicating with the outside without the personnel's consent; leaving the centre; incorrect use of the areas within the centre. Failure to comply with these restrictions may result in penalties.

Keep in mind that: when you are not busy studying, working or practicing sports, in agreement with the centre's rules, you can read, listen to music and watch TV.

Know that it is within your rights to ask for the rules and regulations of the centre in which you are staying, in the language you prefer: In this way, you can read exactly what can and cannot be done.

RIGHTS AND DUTIES

As you can see, you have certain rights and duties in the juvenile criminal procedure and in the juvenile justice system. You will be assured these rights and duties during your entire stay by all the personnel you encounter. Here are their key points:

- **The right to be informed:** it's your right to ask for information on how the system works, the rules of the criminal procedure and what sanctions will be applied to you. It's your right to express your opinion on what has happened and on what is asked of you;
- **The right to be assisted:** it's your right to be assisted by the juvenile justice services during the criminal procedure and to be accompanied to the hearings established by the Judge.
- **The right to legal representation:** it's your right to be able to speak to your lawyer during the criminal procedure;
- **The right for your parents or your legal guardian to be present:** it's your right to have your parents or guardian present during the criminal procedure and to have their support throughout the sentence you have to serve;
- **The right to privacy:** everything you say to the personnel and all the information they gather about your case is bound by professional secrecy;
- **The duty to respect the sanctions imposed by the judge:** as you have seen, the judge has the faculty to impose certain conditions as a precautionary measure. You will have to comply with them or they may be converted into even stricter measures, limiting your freedom even more. The judge may also order that you serve your sentence in prison, in this case you will be sent to a juvenile detention centre.

Whether the judge imposes a temporary precautionary measure restricting your freedom or you are allowed to serve your sentence as a free citizen, your case will be followed by a social worker. The social worker will either meet you in your own home or in one of the centres where you have been sent to check on your progress with the commitments you have undertaken.

The right/duty to pursue an objective: as you have seen, you may be asked to commit to some kind of educational or social integration project proving that you are able to follow it through. These commitments may be picking up your studies from where they were interrupted, vocational training, work experience or community service to pay back the damage/injury caused by your offence.

Remember: not respecting the judge's conditions, not carrying out your duties or committing another offence will restrict your freedom even further. Being sentenced to a safer more secure environment will however, help you to understand your actions and reflect on a different approach towards your family, your relationships and your life in general.

On the contrary, if you demonstrate real commitment in your everyday life, in your studies and recreational activities and if you listen to the personnel and support the other young people living with you, you will give a positive impression to the Judge who may even consider relaxing the measures against you.

GLOSSARY

Accusation

An accusation is a charge of having committed or attempting to commit a specific crime against someone.

Acquittal

At the end of the preliminary investigation stage, the prosecutor may put forth to the Preliminary Investigation Judge (G.I.P.) a request for acquittal. This means that the public prosecutor requests that the criminal procedure against the accused not be pursued. If the GIP accepts the request, the procedure against the minor is dropped but, on the other hand, if it is not accepted the trial continues with the preliminary hearing.

Alternative measures to detention

There are a variety of alternative measure which the Judge can chose to apply, such as; probation, house arrest, semi-detention, day release, early release or parole.

Arrest

The police may arrest the minor if caught in the act, that is, at the time the offence was committed or immediately after, in which case the minor is taken to a holding facility (C.P.A) where he can be held for up to 96 hours.

Assessment of the personality of the minor

Article 9 of Presidential Decree 488/88 requires that juvenile justice personnel, at the request of the public prosecutor and the judge, acquire information on the minor's living conditions and his personal, family, social, and environmental background. The information gathered will be used in order to establish the best path for the social reintegration and rehabilitation of the child.

Centres

A rehabilitation centre is a facility that aims at re- educating young offenders. There are three types of rehabilitation centres: state run centres staffed by juvenile justice personnel; centres run by private organizations which house both young offenders and youths with other difficulties; therapeutic centres for youths with addiction problems or psychiatric conditions who require specific clinical support.

Compensating for a crime

This is a process which foresees the offender's acknowledgement of the damage caused to the victim. The damage can be "repaid" either by compensation or by doing certain tasks to mitigate the consequences of the crime, such as voluntary work for charities, community service or activities in favour of the victim.

Court of Appeal

The court of appeal re-examines and passes judgement on sentences issued by ordinary courts, in the case of adults, and juvenile courts in the case of minors.

Court hearing

The court hearing is the actual trial part of the criminal proceeding and is presided over by a panel of two professional and two honorary judges. During the trial, the judges listen to the accused, the witnesses, the victim and the social services workers following the case. After the hearing, the minor may either be acquitted, pardoned or convicted.

Criminal proceeding

A criminal proceeding is the judicial process which includes both the initial phase of the investigation and the trial. It concludes when the judge pronounces the final ruling.

Cultural Mediator

A cultural mediator is a professional figure, usually a foreign citizen, who has done specific training for this role. His task is to facilitate communication between foreign minors and the personnel of juvenile services, giving information and solving problems of comprehension that can arise from coming from different cultural backgrounds. The cultural mediator is present in all the juvenile justice services and accompanies the minor throughout the entire criminal procedure.

Day centre

A day centre is a place where minors can go to study and do job training as well as leisure and entertainment activities. These centres are also open to youths not serving a sentence.

Doctor

A professional employed by the National Health Service which guarantees healthcare assistance to minors in the juvenile justice system.

Educator

This is a professional who works in holding facilities (C.P.A), rehabilitation centres and juvenile detention centres (I.P.M). His tasks are to take care of the minor, listen to his problems and prepare and assist with a study plan. Furthermore, the educator supports the minor during his stay in the facility and accompanies him through the various stages of the criminal proceedings.

Holding facility

A holding facility houses minors who have been arrested or are being held in custody until a preliminary hearing which must be arranged within 96 Hours. The personnel that works in the holding facility is composed of educators, prison officers, psychologists and cultural mediators. This team of people gather information to write an initial report on the minors psychological and social conditions which will then be presented to the court. This report enables the court to determine the most suitable measures to be taken.

Honorary Judge

An honorary judge is a "non-robed" judge, or rather, a professional of non-legal disciplines nominated every three years. He is delegated by the judge in charge of a case and his task is to speak to minors and their families. He participates in the decisions of "robed Judges" both in civil and in criminal proceedings.

Indictment

The request for indictment is formulated by the public prosecutor. This occurs at the end of the preliminary investigation stage if he considers there to be enough incriminating evidence against the minor.

Individual educational plan

An educational program developed by a team of professionals with the aim of reintegrating and re-educating the minor. Through studying, working, volunteer activities and mediation with the victim, the youth is stimulated to grow and become more responsible for his actions.

Legislative Decree N. 272 28th July 1989

It is the collection of laws governing the conduct of criminal proceedings against juvenile offenders. The laws regulate, among other things, what functions the various departments of the juvenile justice system have, how the precautionary measures should be applied, the suspension of the trial for probation and a whole series of other legal aspects relating to proceedings against minors.

Judicial pardon

A pardon is only foreseen if the offence was committed by a minor and is granted by the judge after having ascertained the criminal responsibility of the youth and that he will not commit further crimes. With the judicial pardon, the crime is declared extinguished.

Juvenile court

A juvenile court passes judgement on all matters criminal, civil and administrative regarding minors. It is composed of both professional and honorary judges.

Juvenile Detention Centre- I.P.M.

An I.P.M is a detention facility that houses minors on remand or serving a sentence. Minors can stay there until they are 21 then they will be transferred to an adult detention centre. The personnel that works there is made up of educators, prison officers, social workers and cultural mediators and their task is to support and guide the minor in his educational projects as well as ensure his wellbeing.

In the I.P.M the respect of the minor's rights are guaranteed as is their right to a balanced psycho-physical growth through various educational and leisure activities.

Juvenile Justice Centre

The Juvenile Justice Centre plans and coordinates the activities conducted by the various juvenile services in a jurisdiction. The services it coordinates are: the social work office for minors (USSM), Penal Institutions for minors (IPM), Holding facilities (CPA), Rehabilitation and day centres.

Juvenile Justice Services

These services comprise the C.P.A., rehabilitation centres, U.S.S.M., I.P.M. and Day centres which, coordinated by the Juvenile Justice Centre (C.G.M.), constitute a system that sustains and monitors minors throughout the entire criminal proceedings.

Multi-purpose centre

A multi-purpose centre is a facility which houses both a day centre and a rehabilitation centre. Minors serving a sentence can live there and attend activities during the day. It is also open to youths not serving a sentence.

Offence declared extinguished

At the end of the probation period (Art. 28) the judge, after reading the report submitted by the social worker following the minors case, declares whether the probation was a success or not. In the event it was a success, the offence is declared extinguished.

Panel of Judges

During juvenile criminal proceedings, depending on the stage of the proceedings, decisions can either be made by a single judge (such as a G.I.P) or by a panel. The panel is made up of various judges which make joint decisions. At the preliminary hearing the panel is composed of one professional and two honorary judges. During the trial the panel is composed of two professional and two honorary judges.

Police custody

When there are serious indications that a minor has committed or is trying to commit an offence or when it is believed that he may flee to escape justice, the police or the prosecutor may decide on police custody. In this case the minor will be taken to a holding facility (CPA) where he can be kept for up to 96 hours.

Precautionary measures

Precautionary measures are issued by the judge, at the request of the public prosecutor, if he considers there to be a risk of re-offending or the leakage/tampering of evidence. There are four precautionary measures:

Conditions: these may be requirements that the minor must comply with such as studying or working, but also limits and prohibitions such as not communicating with or meeting people.

House arrest: the minor is required to stay in the family home or at another designated location. Along with being confined to his house he may also have provisions to comply with.

Placement in a centre: the minor is entrusted to a public or private facility in which he will have to abide by specific rules and comply with the restrictions imposed by the court.

Remand: the judge orders that the minor be detained in a juvenile detention centre.

Preliminary hearing

In the preliminary hearing, the judge, on the basis of the evidence gathered and at the request of the public prosecutor, may:

- Pronounce judgement of inability to proceed;
- Pronounce judgement of irrelevance;
- Grant judicial pardon;
- Grant alternative sanctions;
- Grant probation;
- Pronounce a sentence.

In some cases the judge may defer the decision to the actual trial and if necessary he may also take temporary civil measures, immediately enforceable, in order to protect the minor.

Preliminary hearing Judges

This is a panel comprised of three judges: one "robed" judge and two (one male and one female) honorary judges.

Preliminary Investigation Judge

This is a professional judge also defined a "robed" judge. His job is to gather evidence which cannot be deferred until trial and decides on the initial provisions for the detention or freedom of the suspect. There are various kinds of precautionary measures he can decide to take but he may also decide not to proceed at all if there are no grounds for a criminal trial.

Presidential Decree (D.P.R.) n. 448 22nd Sept. 1988

It is the collection of laws relating to juvenile offender's criminal procedures

Probation

Probation is a measure which can replace, in part or in whole, a custodial sentence in a Juvenile Detention Centre. In such a case the minor will be free to live in his home environment continuing to carry out his usual activities while being subjected to prescriptions and checks on the part of social services.

Prosecutor's Office

The office of the Public Prosecutor is the body which prosecutes minors accused of a crime. It is a distinct body from the court.

Psychologist

A professional employed by the National Health Service operating within the juvenile justice services (C.P.A, state run facilities, I.P.M, U.S.S.M). His task is to observe and support the minor in order to assess his

personality and his needs during all the phases of the criminal proceedings and offer clinical intervention where necessary.

Public Prosecutor

A magistrate from the Public Prosecutor's office in charge of investigating and, in the event there are elements to support the accusation, formulate the charge. He will then proceed with the indictment, sustain the accusation during the trial and formulate the request for a sentence.

Robed Judge

A "Robed Judge" is a magistrate specialized in the juvenile field who acts as a judge on a permanent basis.

Sentence not to proceed due to irrelevance

The judge may decide not to proceed with the case in the event that he deems the crime not serious, he has determined that the minor will not re-offend or when continuing the proceedings could hinder an ongoing trial.

Social Services for minors office- U.S.S.M.

The USSM has the task of collecting and providing the Juvenile Judicial Authority with background information on the minor's family and life in general. It also provides support and guidance to the minor throughout the criminal proceeding and ensures that he complies with the precautionary measures prescribed in cooperation with other justice and local authority services.

Social worker

A social worker is a professional who provides assistance to juvenile suspects or perpetrators of a crime during the various stages of the criminal procedure. At the request of the public prosecutor, the social worker gathers information on the minor for the assessment of their personality and to develop educational projects for rehabilitation. The U.S.S.M. social worker: intervenes when the minor is arrested or in custody, monitors the minor during the various kinds of precautionary measures and when the minor is on probation

Substitute measures of detention

These are measures which the judge can apply at the time of sentencing, for example semi-detention.

Summery Proceedings

This is a particular procedure that can be requested by the accused's lawyer. It avoids the trial seen as the decision of acquittal or conviction is taken during the preliminary hearing.

Supervisory court

A Supervisory court comprises two professional and two honorary judges and decides on the granting of alternative measures to detention.

Supervisory Judge

The Supervisory Judge is a specialist judge who's task it is to supervise the implementation of the criminal measures and that custody is carried out in accordance with the laws and regulations. He also: monitors the organization of detention centres regarding the treatment of minors; approves rehabilitation programs devised by the multi-disciplinary teams; approves probation and outside work experience; imparts provisions aimed at avoiding violations of minor's rights; is responsible for enforcing alternative sanctions imposed on minors.

Suspended sentence with probation

A measure which permits the sentence to be suspended in favour of a trial period called "probation". It is essential that during the probation period the youth is involved in some form of rehabilitation or re-

education project. During this period, which can last up to three years, the youth must respect his commitments seen as the results will be assessed by the judge: if positive, the crime can be declared extinguished, if negative, the proceedings continue.

Trial (1st degree)

If the minor is indicted during the preliminary hearing, the next phase is that of the trial. This is where all the evidence of the crime is gathered and discussed to establish the responsibility of the minor. This phase is not public.

Validation hearing

The validation hearing is fixed by the preliminary investigation Judge (GIP) as soon as possible and, in any case, not more than 48 hours after the request for validation of arrest or detention. Notification of the hearing must be given to the public prosecutor, the defence attorney and, of course, the minor who is being arrested or detained. During the validation hearing, the Public prosecutor indicates the reasons for the minors detention or arrest, and puts forth a request regarding the minor's freedom. The judge listens to the minor and to his defence attorney thus deciding on the validation by adopting the relevant measures.

Victim-Offender Mediation

Victim-Offender Mediation allows both the offender and the victim to come face to face to exchange their views on the offence that was committed and their emotions connected to it. It gives both parties the chance to come to terms with the crime and resolve, where possible, any lingering conflict. This is done with the help of a third party who is seen as a neutral figure (the mediator).

Victim - offender reconciliation

During the criminal proceedings it is possible to arrange one or more meetings between the victim and the offender. This is in order for the offender to repair the harm done by paying restitution to the victim, apologizing or doing community service.