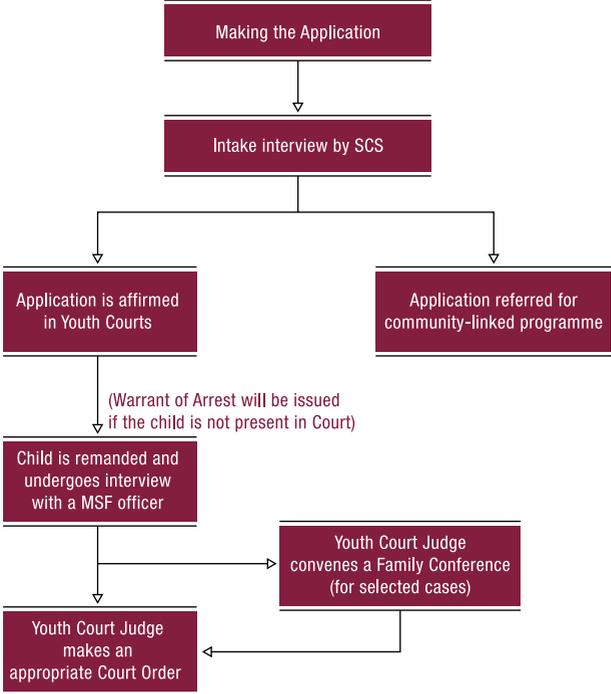


Making a BPC application in the Youth Courts may bring about some strain in the relationship between you and your child. It will be important to take steps to rebuild and strengthen your relationship with your child through counselling programmes.

If your child is undergoing the Youth Court Order or other programmes, it is important to cooperate with your child’s case worker. Attending parenting workshops and talks as well as going for counselling sessions for the family may also be useful for you.

THE YOUTH COURTS BPC PROCESS



“I felt frustrated with my child. I’ve tried all means of disciplining her and constantly spoke with the school authorities to monitor her progress. I’ve even sought professional help from a social service agency. However, I realised that she is beyond my control.

As a final resort, I sought the Youth Courts’ assistance to guide my troubled child back on to the right path”

Parent of a 15-year-old girl

If your child is below 16 years of age, you can make a Beyond Parental Control (BPC) application in the Youth Courts on Tuesdays between 1.30pm – 4.00pm.

Disclaimer:
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Youth Courts
 3 Havelock Square, Singapore 059725
www.FamilyJusticeCourts.gov.sg

April 2017



BEYOND PARENTAL CONTROL
A Pamphlet for Parents

What you need to know about making a Beyond Parental Control (BPC) application

WHAT IS A BPC APPLICATION?

Under Section 50 of the Children and Young Persons Act (CYPA), parents can apply to the Youth Courts for a BPC Order to be made against their uncontrollable child.

The Youth Courts have the powers to make BPC Orders only against uncontrollable children who are below the age of 16 years at the point of the BPC Order.

SHOULD YOU MAKE A BPC APPLICATION?

The Youth Courts will only make a BPC Order if the parents can prove to the satisfaction of the Youth Court Judge that their child is beyond parental control. Making an application in the Youth Courts should serve as a last resort. Families are encouraged to try out the following measures before coming to the Youth Courts:

- Speak to school authorities if the child is in school;
- Seek professional counselling in school, Family Service Centres or other social service agencies; or
- Seek psychological or psychiatric consultations, if necessary.

WHAT ARE THE STEPS TO TAKE IN MAKING A BPC APPLICATION?

- Parents should bring their child to the Youth Courts on a Tuesday afternoon between 1.30pm to 4.00pm. (If the child has run away from home, a Warrant of Arrest may be issued to compel the child's attendance in court);
- Register with the registration officer outside Youth Courts; and
- Parents will also be required to put into writing, details of their application in the relevant form.

A counsellor from the Singapore Children's Society (SCS) will thereafter attend to the parents and advise the parents on the next steps to take.

Once the BPC application is made, one of the following events could take place:

- The parents and/or their child could be advised to seek further assistance from the school or other social service agencies (e.g. Family Service Centre, Community Development Council);
- The parents and/or their child could be referred to a suitable programme in the community, which deals with issues concerning the child and the family. Such programmes may last between 3 to 6 months;
- If the Youth Courts decide to accept the application, the application must be affirmed before the Youth Court Judge; or
- The parents' consent must be sought before the Youth Courts can pass any BPC Order.

Documents to bring:

- Birth certificate and identity card (if any) of child;
- The identity cards of the parents / guardian;
- Court orders on custody, care and control, guardianship or adoption; and
- Police reports (if any).

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER PARENTS HAVE AFFIRMED AND CONFIRMED THE BPC APPLICATION IN COURT?

The child will be remanded at the Singapore Boys' Home (SBH) or the Singapore Girls' Home (SGH) pending interviews with an officer from the Ministry of Social and Family Development (MSF) or a social worker from SCS. If the child is not present, a Warrant of Arrest will be issued for the child to be brought to the Youth Courts.

Please refer to the flowchart in this brochure for the processes.

WHAT ORDERS CAN THE YOUTH COURTS MAKE?

After interviews are conducted with the applicant parent, his/her spouse (or ex-spouse), the child, and/or any significant others, the MSF officer or SCS social worker will submit a Social Report to the Youth Courts. The Youth Court Judge will make the order after a discussion with two Panel Advisers (who are individuals in the community with vast work experience with children and youths, and who are appointed by the President of Singapore). The child may be ordered by the Youth Courts to:

- Reside in a Place of Safety for a period not exceeding three years; or
- Be placed on Statutory Supervision for a specified period, of up to three years, under the supervision of a social worker.

WHAT ARE THE CONSEQUENCES IF THE CHILD BREACHES (I.E. DISOBEYS) ANY COURTS ORDERS?

If the child fails to comply with any of the given orders, the social worker will initiate breach proceedings against the child in the Youth Courts. The child will then be remanded in SBH or SGH for a further report to be prepared and the Youth Court Judge will make an appropriate order taking into account the further report.

HOW CAN YOU, AS A PARENT, HELP YOUR CHILD?

Change does not occur immediately. Your child needs to have the motivation to change and your continual support is critical for facilitating and sustaining the change. It would be helpful to be sensitive to your child's emotional needs and at the same time, ensure that your child complies with the rules and regulations laid upon him/her.