

Extrajudicial measures are also intended to encourage youths to repair the harm done to the victim and community, and encourage families and members of the community to get involved. Importantly, they provide victims with an opportunity to participate in the decision-making process.



Incident: Jayne and Kirsten in Trouble

Jayne and Kirsten, both 15 years old, are caught stealing clothes valued at \$190 from a clothing store. The police attend and after asking the girls a few questions, decide to take them home and interview them with the girls' parents present. As they drive towards the girls' homes they request any available background information from central records.

Jayne's parents are not at home, but are well-known to the police and social services for failing to provide adequate supervision to their children. The report on Jayne discloses one previous incident where she was caught trying to steal some costume jewelry, valued at \$28, from the same store. She was given a warning. Jayne has nothing to say about the stolen clothes.

Kirsten admits stealing the clothes together with Jayne. She says that she has never been in trouble with the law before and her report doesn't disclose any previous incidents. Kirsten's parents are very concerned to learn about her involvement in the theft and assure the police that she will be disciplined accordingly. They think the two girls should not be allowed to spend time together, although they attend the same school.

Discuss

1. Should Jayne and Kirsten be treated the same? Why or why not?
2. What options are open to the police?
3. What personal circumstances would you consider in determining an appropriate response to this incident?
4. If you were the officer involved, what action would you take in relation to each girl? Why?
5. Is having information about past incidents and how they were handled helpful? Explain.

