



# Neighborhood Court Participant Rights

1. **The program is voluntary:** It is your decision whether or not to participate.
2. **You do not need to discuss your case:** You should not say anything about your arrest or case to anyone until you have decided to participate.
3. **If you have legal questions, you can call a lawyer:** You can hire an attorney to advise you or if you cannot afford an attorney you can call the Public Defender's Office at (530) 666-8165.
4. **It is possible that your case will still be dismissed even if you do not participate:** The District Attorney is offering for you to go to Neighborhood Court instead of having your case go through the criminal justice system.

For infractions, that means you will not have to go to Traffic Court if you go to Neighborhood Court. For misdemeanors, that means you do not have to go to Criminal Court if you go to Neighborhood Court. There is a chance that the case would be dismissed in Traffic Court or Criminal Court even if you don't participate in Neighborhood Court.

5. **You have a right to a lawyer in criminal court:** If your misdemeanor case is prosecuted in criminal court and you cannot afford an attorney, one will be appointed to defend you.
6. **The hearing is confidential:** It is a discussion with residents in a community setting designed to address crime. The content of this discussion is confidential and will not be used in a criminal court proceeding.
7. **Arrest records are separate from this process:** After you have fulfilled all of the obligations at Neighborhood Court, your case will be closed, you will not have a record in court of either charges being filed against you or a conviction. No further criminal proceedings associated with this arrest or citation will be initiated.

## *FOR MORE INFORMATION:*

If you would like additional information about Neighborhood Court, please call (530)681-6323, or visit [www.yoloda.org](http://www.yoloda.org) , or email [neighborhoodcourt@yolocounty.org](mailto:neighborhoodcourt@yolocounty.org) .