

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

About Crime: <https://www.fearless.org>

About the legal consequences of crime: <http://lawstuff.org.uk/>

About your rights as a young person:  
[www.childline.org.uk/explore/crimelaw/pages/rights.aspx](http://www.childline.org.uk/explore/crimelaw/pages/rights.aspx)

About knives: <http://noknivesbetterlives.com/>

About stop and search:  
<https://www.gov.uk/police-powers-to-stop-and-search-your-rights>

To report a crime anonymously:  
<https://crimestoppers-uk.org/give-information/give-information-online/>

for more community safety information: [www.dudleysafeandsound.org](http://www.dudleysafeandsound.org)

safe & sound

Dudley's Community Safety Partnership

Funded and produced with Dudley Youth Service

## THINK ABOUT YOUR FUTURE, THINK ABOUT HOW HAVING A CRIMINAL RECORD...

- could stop you from doing certain jobs or college courses
- may stop you from visiting countries such as America, Canada or Australia
- may affect your chances of getting certain types of insurance or a mortgage

**REMEMBER THAT OTHER BEHAVIOURS CAN AFFECT YOUR LIFE IN A NEGATIVE WAY – EVEN IF YOU HAVEN'T COMMITTED A CRIME**

**THINK FIRST... KNOW WHEN NOT TO GET INVOLVED  
AND WHEN TO WALK AWAY**

## THINK ABOUT...

- the perceptions other people may have of you – you may be having fun with your friends in a group out on the street or in the park but other members of the community may find this annoying or intimidating and class it as anti-social behaviour
- what you may find funny or think of as a joke, others might not. Think before you say or do things (online or off) that might upset other people, it could be classed as bullying
- employers checking out an applicant's facebook and other social networking pages to see if they would be suitable employees

For more information go to [www.dudleysafeandsound.org](http://www.dudleysafeandsound.org)  
or to find out about the legal consequences of crime visit  
[www.direct.gov.uk/en/youngpeople/crimeandjustice/index.htm](http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/youngpeople/crimeandjustice/index.htm)



# THINK FIRST

*before you do what you do...*

## THINK ABOUT THE CONSEQUENCES

Everyone can get carried away in some situations, especially if our friends are involved or encouraging us, but sometimes this can lead to committing a criminal offence without realising it, for example: Did you know that if you send nasty text messages or emails you could be breaking the law? This could also be the case if you're hanging around with your mates causing a nuisance or intimidating other people.

We all know that if we break the law there are consequences, these could range from a warning or fine to spending time in a young offenders institute. But what are the other consequences of being involved in anti-social or criminal behaviour? And why should you really **THINK FIRST**

## THINK ABOUT YOURSELF, THINK ABOUT...

- **THE KNOCK ON EFFECTS**  
even short term you could lose pocket money or other privileges like being allowed out with friends
- **COPING WITH EMOTIONS**  
you could experience a range of emotions such as stress, shame, embarrassment and fear of what will happen
- **BEING ARRESTED AND POSSIBLY GOING TO COURT**  
how would it make you feel about yourself, standing up in court and knowing that the judge's decision could have a huge impact on your future?

- **HAVING YOUR WHOLE LIFE DISRUPTED**  
how would you feel if your life was disrupted by ongoing appointments with the Youth Offending Service after school / college and on weekends?
- **THE IMPACT ON YOUR RELATIONSHIPS**  
with your friends or girlfriend / boyfriend. How would they feel about you after you've been in trouble? Would you miss out on time with them because your privileges have been removed?
- **CAREER PROSPECTS**  
it doesn't reflect well going for a job interview with a criminal record, think about how this may affect your future aspirations

## THINK ABOUT YOUR FAMILY, THINK ABOUT...

- how your parents or grandparents would feel
- how getting into trouble will affect your relationship with your parents
- how it would impact on the wider family

