



Railway Crime – legal/social consequences for young people and their families in England and Wales

Under 10 years old

- Not considered criminally responsible for their actions
- Visit to school and/or parents/guardians by a British Transport Police officer to give warning.
- Persistent wrong doers can be subject to a possible Local Child Curfew where children can be banned from being in a public place during specified hours (between 9pm and 6am).
- If the Curfew is ignored the child can be subject of a possible Child Safety Order
- If the Safety Order is ignored the child can be the subject of a Care Order.

10-18 years old

First/second minor offence (trespass, damage)

- Possible visit to school by British Transport Police Officer
- Young person visited at home by British Transport Police Officer and interviewed in front of their parents/guardians. Date arranged for formal reprimand or final warning
- Formal reprimand or final warning at police station by a British Transport Police officer with the parents/guardians in attendance



Further offences

- Referred to a Youth Offending Team for a suitable programme that addresses the needs of the young person in order to prevent further offending
- Possible Acceptable Behaviour Contract where the young person and their parents/carers agree a contract to stop certain patterns of behaviour
- If the contract is breached, a possible Anti-Social Behaviour Order that stops the young person from going to particular places or doing particular things on the railway system. If they do not comply with the order they can be prosecuted in a Youth Court

Serious offence/persistent offenders (Youth Court)

- **Destroying or damaging property:** Ranging from fines to a prison sentence (max of 10 years) depending on severity of offence.
- **Endangering rail passenger/staff safety, track obstruction and throwing stones at trains:** Ranging from fines to a prison sentence (max of life imprisonment) depending on severity of offence.
- **Trespassing:** Fines of up to £1,000 depending on number of previous offences.
- **Criminal record:** Record is active for 5 years or to the age of 18 years

For further details about the Youth Justice system in England and Wales visit

www.youth-justice-board.gov.uk/YouthJusticeBoard/



Over 18 years old

First/second minor offence

- Formal caution at police station by a senior British Transport Police officer

Serious offence/persistent offenders (Magistrates or Crown Court)

- **Destroying or damaging property:** Ranging from fines to prison sentence (max of 10 years) depending on severity of offence
- **Endangering rail passenger/staff safety, track obstruction and throwing stones at trains:** Ranging from fines to prison sentence (max of life imprisonment) depending on severity of offence
- **Trespassing:** Fines of upto £1,000 depending on number of previous offences
- **Criminal record:** Record is active for life and can result in difficulty in getting jobs