

# Changes to the Youth Justice Act 1992

## 2021 amendments

Amendments to the *Youth Justice Act 1992* came into effect on 30 April (on assent) to strengthen accountability for serious repeat youth offenders.

This small proportion of youth offenders commit a disproportionately large number of offences, and have an unacceptable impact on community safety.

The amendments:

- introduce a limited presumption against bail for children charged with particular offences (including assault, attempted robbery, unauthorised use of a motor vehicle where the child is a driver, and dangerous driving) while on bail for an indictable offence
- introduce time limited (2 years) provisions for GPS monitoring as an available bail condition for young offenders aged 16 years and over charged with particular offences
- enable bail decision-makers to consider the willingness of a parent, guardian or other person to support a young person on bail, and advise of any relevant change of circumstances or breach of bail
- reinforce the existing youth justice principle to uphold community safety by adding an additional principle that the community should be protected from serious recidivist offenders
- codify the existing common law principle that offences committed on bail should be considered as an aggravating factor during sentencing
- clarify the existing provision that a young person cannot be remanded in custody solely because they do not have adequate accommodation or family support.

The *Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000* has been amended to:

- strengthen existing owner onus provisions for hooning offences
- provide police with time limited (2 years) powers to scan people for knives in public spaces within Broadbeach and Surfers Paradise [safe night precincts](#) (a trial will be reviewed after 12 months).

## GPS monitoring

The GPS monitoring provisions will be applied to trial electronic monitoring technology in 5 locations (precise areas are prescribed in the *Youth Justice Regulation 2016*):

- Townsville
- north Brisbane
- Moreton
- Logan
- Gold Coast.

The trial will be reviewed after 12 months.

## New services

More than \$98 million over 4 years of new investment will also target the core serious repeat offender group and other young offenders. This funding will deliver 24/7 monitoring, supervision and support to these high-risk young people and their families.

## More information

- Read our factsheets to learn more about:
  - [Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2021](#) (PDF, 497 KB) (DOCX, 462 KB)
  - [electronic monitoring trial](#) (PDF, 467 KB) (DOCX, 459 KB)
  - [new services to support 2021 Youth Justice Act amendments](#) (PDF, 459 KB) (DOCX, 458 KB)
- View the [bill, explanatory notes and Human Rights Statement of Compatibility](#).
- View the [amendment regulation](#).

## 2020 amendments - youth bail

Laws to strengthen and simplify the bail decision-making process for young offenders were passed by the parliament on 17 June 2020 and commenced on 15 July 2020.

The amendments to the *Youth Justice Act 1992* mean that children who are an unacceptable risk to the safety of the community must not be granted bail and will be kept in custody.

## More information

- Read our [2020 bail law amendments factsheet](#) (PDF, 464 KB) (DOCX, 274 KB).
- Read the [Act](#) (see part 13, division 8) and [explanatory notes](#) on the Queensland Legislation website.

## 2019 amendments

The new laws, passed on 22 August 2019, form part of the Queensland Government's \$550 million investment in youth justice reforms, including new programs and services to keep young people out of custody and from re-offending.

The [Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2019](#) was tabled in June 2019 and then referred to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee for consideration. After a detailed examination, which included submissions from stakeholders, the Committee recommended that it be passed.

The Act includes changes to the *Youth Justice Act 1992*, the *Bail Act 1980*, the *Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000* and the *Public Guardian Act 2014*, including:

- changes to the [Charter of Youth Justice Principles](#)
- recordings and use of body-worn cameras in detention centres
- insertion of a new sentencing principle into the *Youth Justice Act 1992* regarding child homicide
- amendments to the *Public Guardian Act 2014*
- establishment of a contemporary information sharing framework under amendments to the Youth Justice Act
- amendments to the *Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000*.

## More information

- [fact sheet on commencement of new laws on assent](#) (PDF, 339 KB)
- [fact sheet on commencement of new laws on proclamation](#) (PDF, 387 KB) (DOCX, 281 KB)
- [Youth Justice legislative reform - information for stakeholders](#) (PDF, 459 KB) (DOCX, 296 KB)
- Act and Explanatory Notes on the [Queensland Legislation website](#).

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