



Standing Committee for Youth Justice

CRIME AND SECURITY BILL
House of Commons Committee Stage
February 2010

Parenting Orders

Clause 38 creates a presumption that a Parenting Order will be imposed upon breach of a child's ASBO unless the court considers that there are 'exceptional circumstances'.

The Standing Committee for Youth Justice recognises the need to provide support to parents of children whose behaviour is problematic but we do not believe that it is appropriate to do so through court orders and the threat of criminal sanction except in the most extreme circumstances, where all voluntary options have failed. Support should be delivered in such a way to enable parents to co-operate and we believe that there should always be a preference for encouraging parents to take up help and support voluntarily.

Notwithstanding this, the Court already has the option of imposing a parenting order when an ASBO is breached and we cannot see how reducing this discretion is advantageous.

The Standing Committee for Youth Justice (SCYJ) is a membership body which:

- Provides a forum for organisations, primarily in the non-statutory sector, working to promote the welfare of children who become engaged in the youth justice system; and
- Advocates a child-focussed youth justice system that promotes the integration of such children into society and thus serves the best interests of the children themselves and the community at large.

Members are: Action for Children, Association of YOT Managers, Barnardo's, Catch22, The Children's Society, Children's Rights Alliance for England, Council for Disabled Children, The Howard League for Penal Reform, Just for Kids Law, JUSTICE, Nacro, National Youth Agency (NYA), National Association for Youth Justice (NAYJ), NCB, TACT, The Prince's Trust, Prison Reform Trust, Sainsbury Centre for Mental Health, Secure Accommodation Network, SOVA and VOICE.

The contents of this briefing do not necessarily reflect the views of all member organisations