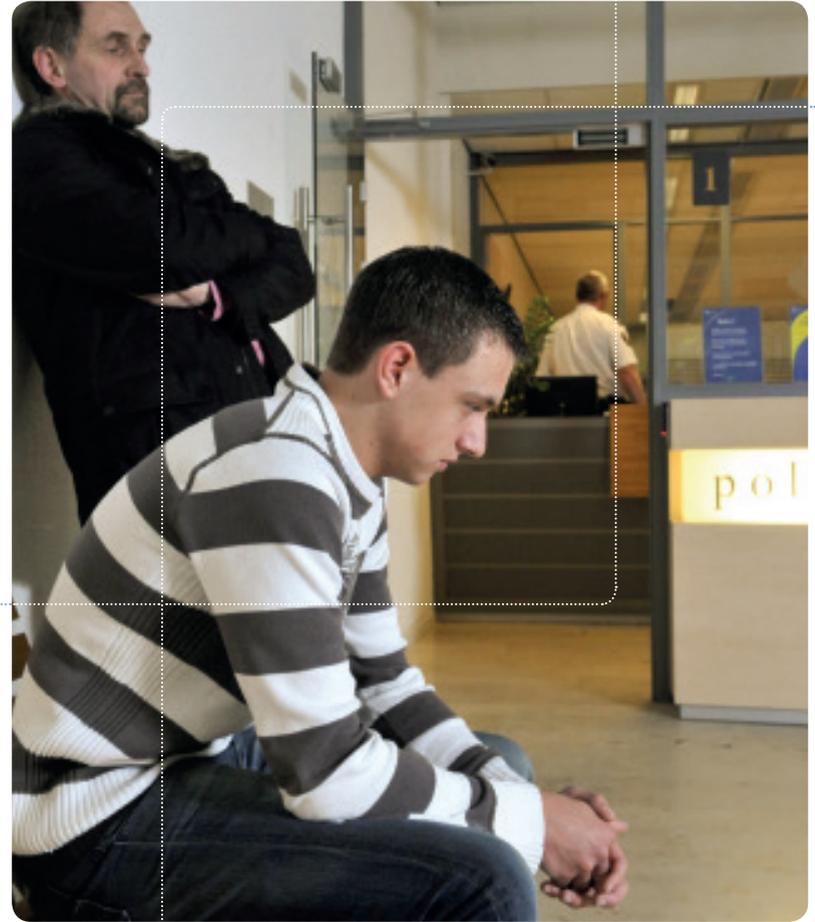


The HALT punishment

More information

HALT has offices throughout the Netherlands and is present in all police regions. You can find more information on HALT and the contact details of its offices on www.halt.nl.



The police have referred you to HALT because you committed an offence. This means that you will receive a HALT punishment. This leaflet describes what your HALT punishment comprises and what will be expected from you.

Why a HALT punishment?

You are responsible for your own acts. HALT gives you the opportunity to correct your errors. What you did wrong. By learning from your mistakes, you can avoid getting into trouble again.

What do you do during a HALT punishment?

The HALT punishment starts with a letter to your parents. Then you must attend an interview together with your parents. During this interview, you will discuss what happened with a HALT member of staff. A punishment is also determined. The punishment usually comprises:

- Interviews with you and your parents.
- Apologising to the victim.
- If applicable: paying for the damage.
- An educational assignment appropriate for what happened.

Sometimes you may also be given a work assignment.

More going on?

Perhaps you came into contact with the police because you have problems. HALT will then also talk with you about your life at home, your school, your friends and the way you spend your leisure time. If it appears that there are problems, HALT will put you and your parents in contact with an organisation that can help solve the problems.

For your parents

You have an active role in the HALT punishment of your child. HALT looks together with you at what is needed to make your child see what the consequences of his/her behaviour are. It is important that you are present at the interviews and that you counsel your child in offering his/her apologies to the victim and paying for the damage. In this way, you can help your child to ensure that he/she does not commit any offences again. HALT will gladly temporarily assist you in your role as parent.



When does the punishment finish?

HALT offers you the opportunity to make up for your punishable behaviour without this having long-term consequences. Have you met all the agreements and completed the assignment(s) successfully? Then your punishment has been served and you avoid the court system. In this way, you also avoid a criminal record. If you do not want to go to HALT after you have been referred to it or if you do not meet the agreements, HALT will stop the punishment. However, your case may then be referred to the public prosecutor.

Privacy

To be able to perform the HALT punishment well, HALT records your personal details. The details of your parents and others who are involved in the HALT punishment are also recorded in our documents. If needed, HALT shares these details with organisations with which HALT cooperates, such as the police and the Child Care and Protection Board. If this is the case, HALT will always discuss this first with you and your parents. HALT does not record any more details than required.

In this leaflet, 'parents' is also understood to mean carers and counsellors.

The boy in the photo is a model.