

# ABOUT JDP

## Our History

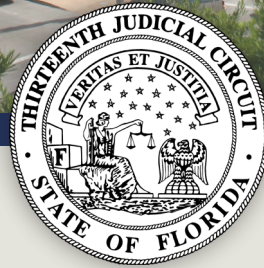
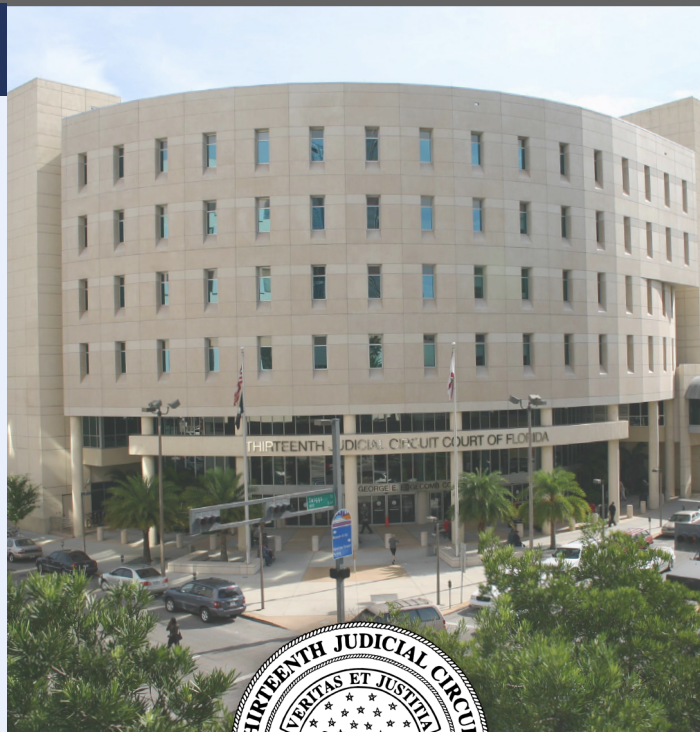
The Juvenile Diversion Program (JDP), through the Administrative Office of the Courts, offers a community based alternative to formal court processing of eligible juvenile criminal referrals. The program was established in 1979 and has expanded significantly over the years.

## Our Mission

Youth are referred to our program through various agencies, but our mission is the same for all. The primary goal is to divert young people who have committed first-time offenses from progressive involvement in the criminal justice system. We want all of our youth to be successful and move towards becoming productive citizens.

## How It Works

Once referred, the youth and the parent/guardian meet with a Court Counselor to review the program and determine if the youth/parent agree to participate. If the youth/parent choose to participate, the court counselor conducts a risk assessment and sanctioning format is determined. JDP uses Arbitration and Teen Court to sanction youth. Youth are monitored by the Court Counselor through the duration of the program and may be referred to services such as counseling, anger management or drug treatment.



### For More Information:

#### Administrative Office of the Courts

#### Juvenile Diversion Programs

419 N. Pierce Street, Room 107A

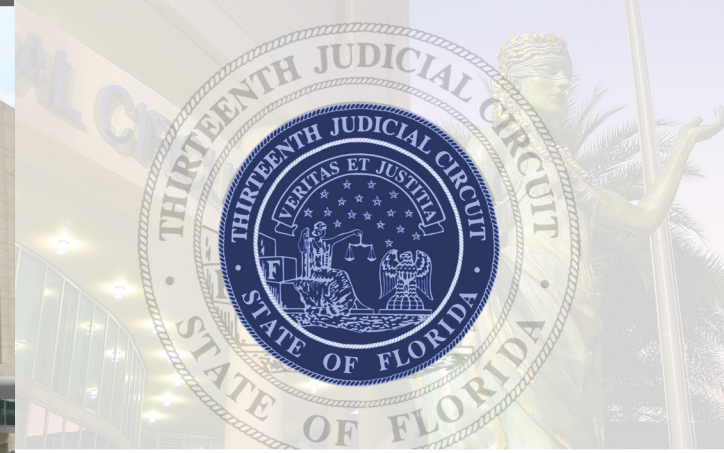
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**Learn more about the  
Thirteenth Judicial Circuit at:**  
[www.fljud13.org/Court-Services/Court-Programs/  
Juvenile-Diversion-Programs](http://www.fljud13.org/Court-Services/Court-Programs/Juvenile-Diversion-Programs)

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ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE  
OF THE COURTS

## Juvenile Diversion Programs

MOVING TOWARDS SUCCESS



[www.fljud13.org](http://www.fljud13.org)

## Program Eligibility

Eligibility may vary by offense, but many first-time misdemeanor and felony offenders of the ages of 7-18 qualify. Referrals are made through the State Attorneys office and Local law enforcement agencies.

## Juvenile Arbitration

Arbitration is a meeting between the youth, Parent/guardian, and the victim with a JDP Case Manager to discuss the offense and to form a contract. At the end of Arbitration a contract will be signed to include all the sanctions the youth will need to complete.

If the sanctions are completed, the victim compensated, if applicable, the youth will avoid formal prosecution in juvenile court.



## Truancy Court

Truancy courts are found in most of Florida's larger metropolitan areas and serve the purpose of reinforcing school attendance laws with visibility and certainty. JDP partners with the Courts and Hillsborough County Schools to address youth with significant attendance issues.



## Teen Court

Teen court offers youth 13-18 an alternative to adjudication in juvenile court. Youth referred for this sanctioning program are given the opportunity to have their cases heard by teens with dispositions recommended by a teen jury. A contract is developed in Teen Court and sanctions are monitored by the JDP Court Program Specialist. Teen Court also offers mentoring opportunities for youth interested in the legal profession.

## Civil Citation

Civil Citation, also referred to as the **Juvenile Arrest Avoid Program**, is an alternative to arrest for youth 8-17 years of age who commit certain first time misdemeanor offenses. Florida Statute 985.12 gives law enforcement authorization to issue the youth a civil citation in lieu of arrest.

Youth will receive a risk assessment and may be referred to services such as counseling, treatment, and other appropriate community resources.

The Civil Citation Program works with community partners in the effort to reduce juvenile crime and to provide services for at-risk youth.

