



## Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. How does a client get referred to Juvenile Mental Health Court?

*The juvenile's attorney in the regular division will make the referral to JMHC if the juvenile has been found incompetent to proceed or if the juvenile has behavioral or mental health issues that may be better served in JMHC.*

### 2. Where is the courtroom located?

*JMHC is held on the 5th floor in the Annex building of the courthouse, in courtroom 52.*

### 3. How long is the Program?

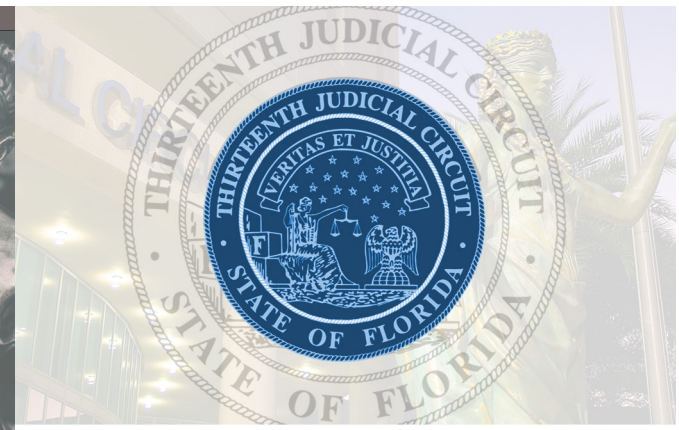
*The exact length of time in the program is determined by the treatment and educational needs of the juvenile.*

### 4. Upon completing the program, what happens to the charge?

*Youth who successfully complete the JMHC program will receive an order of dismissal of their charges and a graduation certificate.*

### 5. What kind of services are offered in the program?

*Services typically involve mental health counseling, substance abuse counseling, family counseling, grief counseling, anger management or other therapeutic intervention that are deemed appropriate.*



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE  
OF THE COURTS

## Juvenile Mental Health Court (JMHC)

### For More Information:

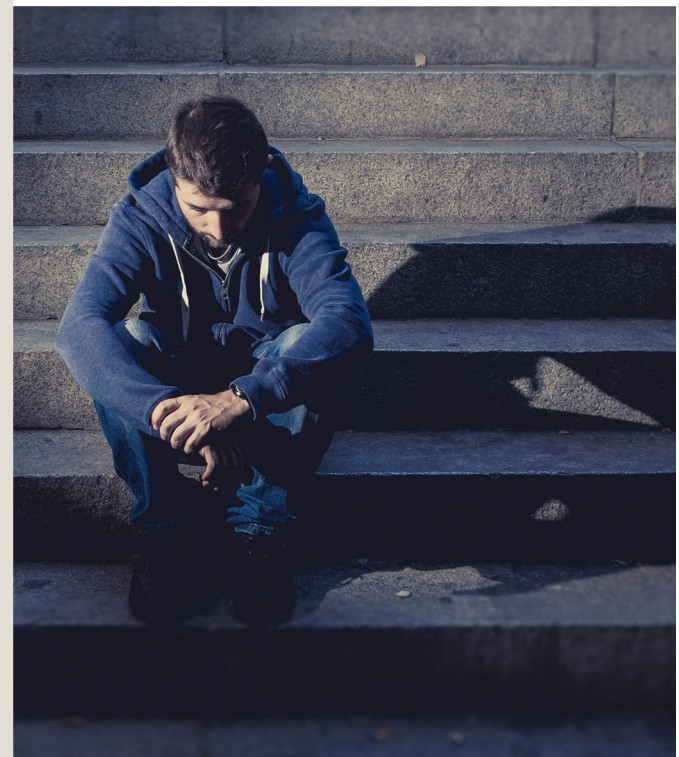
Administrative Office of the Courts  
Problem Solving Courts

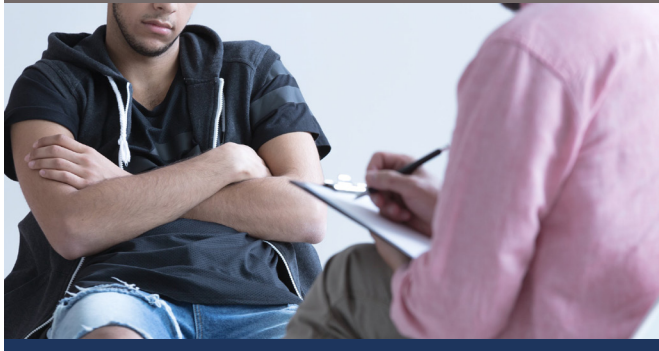
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Learn more about the  
Thirteenth Judicial Circuit at:  
[www.fjud13.org/CourtPrograms/  
ProblemSolvingCourts/  
JuvenileMentalHealthCourt.aspx](http://www.fjud13.org/CourtPrograms/ProblemSolvingCourts/JuvenileMentalHealthCourt.aspx)

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## Mission Statement

Problem-Solving Court programs address the root causes of justice system involvement through specialized dockets, multidisciplinary teams, and a non adversarial approach. PSC offer evidence-based treatment, judicial supervision, and accountability. PSC provide individualized interventions for participants, thereby reducing recidivism and promoting confidence and satisfaction with the justice system process.

## Program Overview

Juvenile Mental Health Court embraces the idea that treatment, rather than punishment alone, is the most effective strategy to help youth avoid future involvement in the juvenile justice system. Each Juvenile is offered tailored treatment along with court supervision.

## Program Eligibility

Any juvenile that has been charged with a misdemeanor or felony and has been found incompetent to proceed or has a mental illness is eligible. Once established and approved by the Office of the State Attorney the juvenile may be transferred to the JMHC division for treatment and services.

## Guiding Principles of Juvenile Mental Health Court

- Youth should not become entangled in the juvenile justice system solely because of their mental illness or need to access mental health services.
- Young people with mental illness should be diverted from the traditional juvenile justice system into evidence-based treatments in their communities whenever possible and appropriate, consistent with public safety concerns.
- Youth should reside in the least restrictive setting possible.
- Information obtained from a mental health screening or treatment should not jeopardize a youth's legal interests.
- Treatment should be culturally appropriate and consider gender, ethnicity, race, age, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, and faith.
- Mental health diagnoses and treatment should take into account developmental differences between young people and adults that may affect behavior.
- The JMHC should engage and treat the youth's family and community supports as partners in developing service goals, probation supervision, and transition plans.
- Multiple agencies and systems share responsibility for caring for youth; all should work collaboratively to develop service plans.

## Juvenile Mental Health Court Community Partners

- Chrysalis Health
- Twin Oaks
- ACTS
- Success 4 Kids
- Northside
- Children's Home Network
- APD Cares
- Hillsborough County schools
- Eckerd
- Gracepoint
- Office of the State Attorney
- Office of Public Defender
- Department of Juvenile Justice

## Court Requirements

- Youth shall attend all court dates
- Youth will cooperate with evaluations, participate in court, and engage in treatment
- Youth will attend school and have passing grades
- Youth will not use or possess illegal drugs or alcoholic beverages
- Youth will not have any new law violations
- Youth will obey reasonable demands of parents
- Special requirements may be community service hours, restitution, letter of apology