

ADVANTAGES OF PARTICIPATING IN THE JUVENILE CIVIL CITATION PROGRAM

Youth are held accountable for their actions and receive immediate intervention

No formal arrest record

Youth receive an evidence based risk assessment and are sanctioned to targeted and appropriate interventions improving youth outcomes

Youth "pay back" the community

Lower referrals to Juvenile Justice System for minor crimes

Allows youth to get the services they need outside of the formal criminal justice system

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If you have been referred to the program and would like information on your legal rights, you may contact the Public Defender's Office at: 813-277-1504, 813-307-4201 or 813-307-4000. After hour's number: 813-277-0845.

CIVIL CITATION COMMUNITY PARTNERS

13th Judicial Circuit

Florida Department of Juvenile Justice

Hillsborough County

Hillsborough County Public Schools

Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office

Juvenile Assessment Center

Office of the Public Defender

Office of the State Attorney

Plant City Police Department

Tampa Police Department

Temple Terrace Police Department

USF Police Department



Juvenile Diversion Programs
700 E. Twiggs St., Room 810
Tampa, FL 33602, (813) 272-6766

[http://www.fljud13.org/CourtPrograms/
JuvenileDiversionPrograms.aspx](http://www.fljud13.org/CourtPrograms/JuvenileDiversionPrograms.aspx)

Juvenile Arrest Avoidance Program

Juvenile Civil Citation Initiative



A collaborative effort in the 13th
Judicial Circuit of Hillsborough
County

Administered by

The Administrative Office of the Court
Juvenile Diversion Programs

CIVIL CITATION OVERVIEW

Civil Citation 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.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

All youth ages 8-17 that have committed certain first time misdemeanor offenses or have violated a county or municipal ordinance are eligible for the Civil Citation Program without being arrested. Law enforcement agencies have changed their procedures in order to refer eligible youth to the Juvenile Diversion Program where the youth can receive an assessment and applicable intervention. Youth must accept responsibility for the offense and agree to participate in the program. **Law enforcement has the discretion to issue a civil citation or make an arrest.**

ELIGIBLE OFFENSES

- Theft (value less than \$300)
- Criminal Mischief (Damage less than \$1,000)
- Trespassing
- Simple Battery/Assault
- Disorderly Conduct
- Affray
- Disruption of a School Function
- City/County ordinances
- Simple Possession of Alcohol

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Law Enforcement will issue the Civil Citation and will send the citation paperwork to the Juvenile Diversion Programs (JDP) office. Youth will be assigned a court counselor and issued a date for an interview. A parent or legal guardian must accompany the youth.

To promote accountability, the youth may be ordered to complete sanctions such as writing apology letters to victims, community work service, and/or the payment of restitution. The court counselor will conduct an evidence-based risk assessment to evaluate whether any additional services are needed and referrals will be made when appropriate. The youth will be given a deadline date for the completion of assigned sanctions.

WHAT HAPPENS TO MY CRIMINAL RECORD

When a youth enters the civil citation program, his/her information is entered into prevention records with the Department of Juvenile Justice as required by Florida statute. If the youth completes the program, the youth will not have an arrest record and the information will not be forwarded to the Clerk of the Court, Florida Dept. of Law Enforcement or the Office of the State Attorney.

FAILURE TO COMPLETE PROGRAM

If the youth fails to successfully complete the required sanctions of the Civil Citation Program or the youth is charged with another crime while in the program, his/her case will be referred to the State Attorney's Office for formal prosecution consideration.

ROLE OF THE PARENT

Parental or guardian consent is required for a youth to enter the program. Once enrolled in the program, the parent or guardian is expected to support the youth's participation and it is important to the overall success of the youth.