Juvenile Services Department

Mission Statement

Miami-Dade County Juvenile Services Department commits its resources in partnership with the community to provide a safe and secure environment to assess and process arrested juveniles and those at-risk, utilizing state-of-the-art assessment instruments and technology in order to determine the individual issues of juveniles for the purpose of minimizing further delinquent activity and contributing to the development of future productive adult citizens.

Civil Citation Program

Community Partners

Miami-Dade County Association of Chiefs of Police
Office of the State Attorney
Eleventh Judicial Circuit of Florida
Florida Department of Juvenile Justice
Miami-Dade County Public Schools
Miami-Dade Public Defender
Mental Health Agencies
Community Work Service Sites
Local Law Enforcement Agencies
Local Youth Shelters
Community-Based Organizations

Juvenile Services Department

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**Civil Citation Program Overview**

Representing a systemic change in how juvenile justice is delivered, for the first time troubled children in Miami-Dade County who commit a minor offense have the opportunity to attain complete and targeted treatment services without the baggage of an arrest.

In Partnership with Miami-Dade County Association of Chiefs of Police and the Office of the State Attorney, Civil Citation is an unprecedented initiative that reforms the protocol on how police and the community address juvenile first-time misdemeanor offenders. Rather than issuing an arrest, officers refer all eligible children to JSD where they receive an assessment and application of appropriate, targeted interventions.

Civil Citations have been responsible for a 23% reduction in arrests and referrals to the Juvenile Justice System since April 2007.

**Why Civil Citation**

Too often juveniles are being arrested for non-serious crimes, exposing them unnecessarily to the juvenile justice system. This new model offers youth a chance to:

- Strengthen the family unit
- Lower referrals to the Juvenile Justice System for minor crimes
- Reduce youth’s delinquent attitudes and behaviors
- Create outlets for pro-social activities
- Address Minority Overrepresentation
- All while maintaining a ‘clean’ criminal record.

**How it works**

All children ages 8-17 who have committed a minor misdemeanor offense will have the opportunity to participate without being arrested. Police departments have changed their procedures in order to refer eligible children to JSD where they receive an assessment and application of appropriate, targeted interventions.

**Law Enforcement Participation**

The Civil Citation Program, which incorporates support services, was first utilized in April 2007 with the Miami-Dade Public Schools Police and the Miami-Dade County Police Department. All 37 local arresting agencies have formally agreed to participate in this program.

**Evidence-Based Assessments**

The Program is a part of the JSD Prevention and Diversion Continuum, which includes comprehensive evidence-based assessments, interventions and coordination of services.

**Addressing Minority Overrepresentation**

Since inception, 95% of youth eligible for a Civil Citation were minorities. Statistics captured from the Juvenile Justice Information System (JJIS) show that minority youth are over represented, totaling 58% of the state-wide arrested population.