

Miami-Dade County Teen Court is more than a sanctioning program

Miami-Dade County Teen Court is an educational experience that helps to foster positive changes in young people through workshops, school orientations, and community presentations. Peer groups become a positive influence in the lives of juvenile offenders.

Workshop Opportunities

Teen Court offers an array of educational workshops on a weekly and monthly basis. Sanctioned youth have specific workshops that they must attend, but are encouraged to participate in other workshops. In addition to this, other youth may participate in these workshops to keep them on the right path in becoming a responsible citizen. Youth can sign up for workshops, such as, Anger Management, Ethics, and Substance Abuse just to mention a few.

Parents may sign up their teens to attend workshops to assist in the prevention of delinquency.

Benefits of Teen Court

- Exposes youth to a culturally diverse peer group
- Exposes youth to various career opportunities within the legal and criminal justice field
- Provides a meaningful forum for youth to practice and enhance public speaking and leadership skills
- Familiarizes youth with the judicial system process
- Helps students satisfy community service hours required for high school completion
- Educates youth on the consequences of disruptive behavior



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Miami-Dade County Teen Court is part of a nationwide network of teen court programs and a member of the Florida Association of Teen Courts. The local program is administered by Miami-Dade Economic Advocacy Trust (MDEAT), an agency of Miami-Dade County.

Miami-Dade County Teen Court
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Miami-Dade Economic Advocacy Trust (MDEAT) is to ensure the equitable participation of Blacks in Miami-Dade County's economic growth through advocacy and monitoring of economic conditions and economic development initiatives in Miami-Dade County.



Miami-Dade County Teen Court

Engaging Youth to Develop Responsible Citizens



Miami-Dade County Teen Court

Miami-Dade County Teen Court (MDCTC) is an alternative sanctioning program for first-time youthful offenders who agree to allow their peers to determine sentencing instead of the juvenile justice system. Through youth participation, the program helps decrease juvenile delinquency by interrupting the beginning stages of criminal behavior. Unlike any other diversion program in Miami-Dade County, Teen Court serves a range of youth within its peer sanctioning process such as teens needing a second chance and youth looking for opportunities to serve their community.

How to Qualify for Teen Court

- Youth must be under the age of 18 at the time of the commission of the offense
- Must NOT have a prior record of a criminal (misdemeanor or felony) offense
- The State Attorney's Office or another designated approving agency must first refer the youth for consideration
- The juvenile must admit his/her guilt
- The juvenile and parent/guardian must sign a "Waiver of Speedy Trial" form



What should first-time juvenile offenders and parents expect from this program?

- The parent/guardian must participate in a pretrial intake interview and the juvenile must agree not to commit another delinquent act while participating in Miami-Dade County Teen Court.
- The juvenile and parent/guardian must appear for the hearing and accept the sanction imposed by the teen jury by signing a contract with the Teen Court coordinator agreeing to the conditions of the sentence.
- If the participant fails to complete any part of the sanctions in a timely manner, or engages in any unlawful conduct during the duration of the program, Miami-Dade County Teen Court will refer his/her case back to the referring agency for further action.

Common Sentencing Options

Miami-Dade County Teen Court has minimum mandatory obligation to sentence each first-time juvenile offender to serve jury duty, satisfy community service requirements, and participate in jail tours.

Additional sentencing may include:

- Attending educational workshops
- Providing oral/written apologies to victims and/or parents
- Writing essays
- Adhering to a curfew
- Receiving counseling and/or tutorial sessions



Volunteering for Teen Court

Youth Volunteers

Become a youth volunteer; teens can participate as a defense or prosecuting attorney, juror, clerk, and/or a bailiff. It is a beneficial hands-on experience showing the reality of what happens in a courtroom. This volunteer program is magnificent for teens who are interested in careers associated with the judicial system.

Adult Volunteers

Guide our youth by becoming a volunteer and impact their future and our community in a positive manner. Adults can volunteer as court monitors. If proper requirements are met, an adult with a legal background may volunteer as a judge. This rewarding volunteer experience will make a difference in the life of a youth and set an example for them to follow.

Make a difference in the Miami
Community, Volunteer with **Teen Court!**