

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 Initiative 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



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Civil Citation Initiative



Juvenile Services
Department

Civil Citation Initiative 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 will 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 benchmark initiative that **reforms the protocol** on how police

and the community address juvenile first-time misdemeanor offenders. Rather than issuing an arrest, officers will refer all eligible children to attain the same level of evidence-based, customized, and proven services available to arrested youth.

Civil Citations have been responsible for a 15% 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 are changing their procedures in order to refer eligible children to JSD where they will receive an assessment and application of appropriate, targeted interventions.

Law Enforcement Participation

The new Civil Citation Initiative, 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 35 local arresting agencies have formally agreed to participate in this initiative.

Evidence-Based Assessments

The Initiative will be part of the innovative programming provided by the JSD, which includes comprehensive evidence-based assessments, interventions and coordination of services.

Addressing Minority Overrepresentation

Statistics captured from the Juvenile Justice Information System (JJIS) show that minority youth are over represented, totaling 39% of the state-wide arrested population. In 2007, 95% of youth eligible for a Civil Citation were minorities.