

## 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



Juvenile Services  
Department

## 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 attain the same level of evidence-based, customized, and proven services available to arrested youth.

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.