An alternative to arrest that provides swift and appropriate consequences for minor misdemeanor delinquent acts and increases public safety, improves youth outcomes, and saves taxpayer money.
Florida Civil Citation Initiative

- Allows DJJ to identify youth who are more likely to come back into the system and wrap services around youth and families.
- Helps safeguard youth’s future in that there is no arrest record to impede military, educational, or employment opportunities for youth who successfully complete civil citation.
- When consistently applied across a county, civil citation provides equal justice for youth.
- Keeps youth that pose no real threat to public safety out of the juvenile justice system.
S. 985.12, Florida Statute As Revised in 2011

- Requires a civil citation or similar diversion program in each community
- Calls for the concurrence of the chief circuit judge, state attorney, public defender, and the head of each law enforcement agency
- Defines who may operate civil citation
  - Local law enforcement
  - Local government
  - An entity selected by local government
  - Florida Department of Juvenile Justice
Florida Civil Citation Initiative

S. 985.12, Florida Statute As Revised in 2011

- Limits eligibility to first-time, non-serious misdemeanants
- Maintains law enforcement discretion to arrest or cite
- Requires youth to admit guilt
- Permits youth to refuse participation
- Specifies that a youth assessment must be completed and intervention services received
- Provides that civil citation is not considered a referral (an arrest) to DJJ
S. 985.12, Florida Statute As Revised in 2011

- Ensures that youth who do not successfully complete sanctions are referred to the state attorney on the original charge
- Authorizes DJJ to develop guidelines and help implement or improve civil citation or other diversion programs
- Provides that civil citation youth data is maintained by DJJ
- A similar diversion program may serve civil citation youth under the provisions of this statute
Florida Civil Citation Initiative

Civil Citations and 1st-Time Misdemeanor Arrests in Florida

- FY 10-11: Civil Citations Issued 4,157, 1st Time Misdemeanor Arrests 6,924
- FY 11-12: Civil Citations Issued 26,210, 1st Time Misdemeanor Arrests 7,289
- FY 12-13: Civil Citations Issued 24,364

Legend:
- Civil Citations Issued
- 1st Time Misdemeanor Arrests
Florida Civil Citation Initiative

**Implementation**

- **Data Analysis**
  - Increased availability of data to the public through the Civil Citation Dashboard
    - Utilization at the state, circuit, county level
    - Status by race, school and law enforcement agency
    - Statistics for offenses, disposition, and reoffenses
  - Monitoring utilization by county and intersection between race and gender for similar offenses
An officer who encounters a youth who has committed a first-time misdemeanor offense may instead issue a civil citation. The officer has two options.

1. **Call the Screening Unit**
   - The Screening Unit confirms identity and eligibility
   - The officer, kid and parent signs the civil citation form
2. Issue a field or school citation

**Officer**
- Completes civil citation form and narrative section
- Confirms identify and eligibility
- Releases youth to a parent, relative, guardian, or responsible adult
- Provides the narrative section, civil citation form, and release agreement to the operating entity via email, fax or SAO

The operating entity provides case management through program completion
Youth has 7 days to contact the civil citation operating entity

The Operating Entity

1. Explains process to youth and parents
2. Evaluates youth using a PAT or other assessment
3. Assigns sanctions and refers for services
4. Follows youth progress
5. Encourages youth to ensure successful completion
6. Upon completion, notifies the referring Law Enforcement Agency of the completion status and notifies the State Attorney to process unsuccessful youth on the original charge
Florida Civil Citation Initiative

Case Management

Typical Youth Sanctions

- Community service hours
- Letter of apology or essay
- Curfew
- Counseling
Benefits for the State

- Increases Public Safety
  - Civil Citation’s early intervention in youthful misbehavior reduces future criminality

- Improves Youth Outcomes
  - Eligible youth that receive a civil citation have a better success rate than eligible youth who are arrested.

- Saves Taxpayer Money
  - It costs approximately $5,000 to process a youth in the juvenile justice system and $386 to process a civil citation youth.

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Florida Civil Citation Initiative

Benefits for Law Enforcement

- Issuing a civil citation requires less officer time than an arrest
- Youth are held accountable for their behavior with swift and effective sanctions
- Decreases agency operational costs
- Frees up limited resources to focus on more serious crimes
- Requires no court appearance
Flintda Civil Citation Initiative

Benefits for Youth

- Risk factors are identified and addressed
- Youth receive early intervention and immediate sanctions
- Families are made healthier through services that specifically address behavior and risk factors
- Youth are less likely to offend in the future
- Youth who successfully complete civil citation have no arrest record to impede military, educational, or employment opportunities
- Avoids an arrest and escalation into justice system
Florida Civil Citation Initiative

Most Common Offenses for Civil Citation Eligible Youth

Fiscal Year 2012-13

- Petit Larceny: 31%
- Assault/Battery: 26%
- Drug Related: 17%
- Disorderly Conduct: 8%
Contact Information

- **Randy Reynolds, Reform Specialist**
  - 352-239-3542
  - Randy.Reynolds@djj.state.fl.us

- **Rick Bedson, Chief Probation Officer**
  - 352-266-9899
  - Rick.Bedson@djj.state.fl.us

- **Lori Bright, Assistant Chief Probation Officer**
  - 352-258-0237
  - Lori.Bright@djj.state.fl.us

Our Website
http://www.djj.state.fl.us/partners/our-approach/florida-civil-citation

Our Dashboard
http://www.djj.state.fl.us/research/delinquency-data/fy-2012-13-civil-citation-dashboard