

Juvenile Drug Court provides:

- Thorough ongoing judicial supervision
- Participation in treatment for substance-involved juveniles
- A wide range of support services to address the problems leading to the involvement in the system
- Family involvement

Highlights of Tampa's
Juvenile Drug Court

- Established February 1996
- Featured on CBS – “48 Hours”
- Featured in both an English & Spanish segment of “The Justice Files FLA”
- Serves over 300 youth per year
- Court is held weekly
- Juvenile Drug Court Specialist - liaison between Court, families & treatment

For more information contact:
**Administrative Office of the Courts
Drug Court Programs Office**

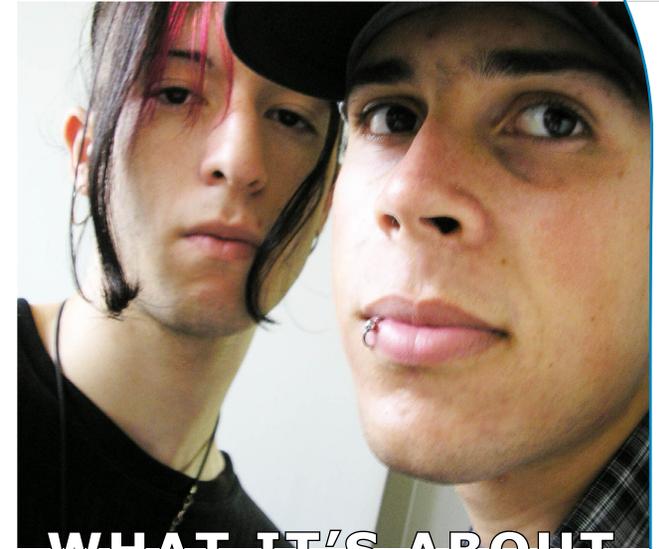
800 E. Twiggs Street, Suite 605
Tampa, FL 33602

Phone (813)276-8190
Fax (813)276-2987

Drug Court Specialists:
Jim Downum (813) 272-5518
Steve Miller (813) 272-6179



Learn more about the
Thirteenth Judicial Circuit at
WWW.FLJUD13.ORG



WHAT IT'S ABOUT

**JUVENILE
DRUG COURT**
LET YOUR FUTURE SHINE

Juvenile Drug Court

The Thirteenth Judicial Circuit's Juvenile Drug Court, established in 1996, is a Court diversion and intervention program. The program targets youth who have committed drug-related offenses or acknowledge a history of substance abuse upon arrest for nonviolent offenses. The program is typically offered to juveniles who are first or second time offenders.

If the Juvenile successfully completes all requirements of the program, the charges against him/her are DISMISSED. This means the youth is NOT convicted of the crime or delinquent act.



Program Requirements

Include but are not limited to:

- Comply with all contractual requirements and sanctions.
- Abstain from use of drugs and alcohol
- Program participants must attend school, pursue a GED, or be employed full-time. A parent or other responsible adult must agree to participate in the program.

Program Length

The standard length of the program is 12 months, however, the exact length is determined by the treatment need, participation in treatment, and compliance with Court Orders and program guidelines. By law, the juvenile court may retain jurisdiction until the youth's 19th birthday. Participants must be under 17 years of age at the time of program admission.

Frequently Asked Questions

How are individuals referred to the Juvenile Drug Court?

Juveniles in the program must have been charged by the State Attorney with a crime. The State Attorney and Juvenile Drug Court must approve entry into the program. Juvenile Drug Court participants come to the program from different referral sources. The main sources are as follows:

The Juvenile Assessment Center (JAC):

After juveniles are arrested, they are taken to the Juvenile Assessment Center where they are interviewed by a JAC employee and asked to provide a urine sample. Testing positive for illegal substances or reporting to the JAC employee that they have used illegal substances could be reasons for a referral to Juvenile Drug Court, even if the arrest was not drug related drugs/alcohol on campus.

The Juvenile Arbitration Program:

If juveniles are originally referred to the Juvenile Arbitration Program and fail to complete it successfully, the Juvenile Arbitration staff may recommend them for the Juvenile Drug Court program.

Juvenile Division Transfer:

Juveniles who appear before a juvenile division judge may be ordered to participate in the Juvenile Drug Court program.

The Hillsborough County School District:

The school district has a Zero-Tolerance Policy for possession of drugs/alcohol on campus. If students are arrested on campus for drug or drug related charges, referrals may be made to the Juvenile Drug Court for an evaluation and treatment. If referred students do not complete the program



or follow the recommendations of the treatment provider, the school district is notified by the Juvenile Drug Court staff. The school board will then hold a change of placement hearing to determine in referred individuals may return to school or any public school in Hillsborough County.

What happens in Court?

Upon attending an orientation, juveniles who decide to accept the Juvenile Drug Court program at the arraignment hearing, must enter a plea of guilty or of no contest. Juveniles that wish to contest their charge have a right to plead not guilty and receive a trial. If they choose to do so, the juvenile will be given a new court date and transferred to the regular juvenile division. To officially enter Juvenile Drug Court all parties must sign the contract agreement. The Judge orders the youth to begin the program with a complete screening assessment, including a urinalysis. Next, the juvenile is referred to a treatment provider to assess the extent of substance abuse treatment. Once the assessment has been completed, the juvenile is placed with a treatment provider and begins the program. If the initial urine screen tests are positive for illegal substances, the Judge may order the individual to be held up to 72 hours in an inpatient stabilization unit.

JUVENILE DRUG COURT