

Understanding DELINQUENCY

RESOURCES

Court Administration

205 North Dixie Highway
West Palm Beach, FL 33401
(561) 355-2431
<http://15thcircuit.co.palm-beach.fl.us>

Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ)

1100 45th St, Building B
West Palm Beach, FL 33407
(561) 882-3600
<http://www.djj.state.fl.us>

Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE)

2331 Phillips Road
Tallahassee, FL 32308
(850) 410-7870
<http://www.fdle.state.fl.us>

Office of the Clerk & Comptroller

Main Courthouse, Room 3.220
205 North Dixie Highway
West Palm Beach, FL 33401
(561) 355-6227
<http://www.mypalmbeachclerk.com>

Office of the Public Defender

421 3rd Street
West Palm Beach, FL 33401
(561) 355-7600
<http://www.pd15.state.fl.us>

Office of the State Attorney

401 North Dixie Highway
West Palm Beach, FL 33401
(561) 355-7100
<http://www.sa15.state.fl.us>

Important Definitions

- **Child/ Juvenile/ Youth**: A person who has been alleged to have violated the law before reaching 18 years of age.
- **Delinquent Act**: A violation of any law of Florida which is a misdemeanor or a felony which would be punishable if the violation were committed by an adult
- **Adjudication**: Formal finding of delinquency (guilt); similar though not the same as conviction
- **Adjudication Withheld**: No formal finding of delinquency (guilt)

What Happens After an “Arrest”?

Juvenile may be:

- Released to a parent/guardian either at the police station or location of the offense
- Given a Notice to Appear in Court
- Transported to the Juvenile Assessment Center (JAC) for “booking”

During “Booking”

Juveniles will be processed:

- Fingerprinting/Photographing
- Contacting parent/guardian
- Screening (Interview by DJJ)

Juveniles will then be:

- Released to parent/guardian; OR
- Released to Home Detention (“house arrest”); OR
- Placed on Electronic Monitoring (GPS ankle device); OR
- Held in Secure Detention
 - If not eligible for release, he/she will be transported to the Juvenile Detention Center (hardware secure, locked facility)

**This material is intended to provide general information regarding Juvenile Delinquency - it is in no way final legal authority. It is best to consult with an attorney about your legal matters.*

Understanding DELINQUENCY (continued)

Possible Outcomes Following Delinquent Act

- **Diversion**

- Juvenile First Offender (JFO) program (Community)
- State Attorney/Court Diversion
 - ◆ Juvenile Diversion Alternative Program (JDAP)
 - ◆ Family Violence Intervention Program (FVIP)

- **Juvenile Court**

- Hearings in front of a judge (including but not limited to Arraignment, Plea/Trial, Disposition)
- **Juvenile Probation:** Supervised by Juvenile Probation Officer (JPO) from DJJ. May include conditions such as:
 - ◆ Community Service hours
 - ◆ Counseling (Individual, Substance Abuse, Anger Management)
 - ◆ Random drug testing
 - ◆ Letter of Apology (to the Victim)
 - ◆ Curfew
 - ◆ Attend school daily, no referrals
- **Residential Commitment Program:** Placed in custody of the DJJ for supervision, treatment, and rehabilitation
 - ◆ Typically secure, locked facility
 - ◆ Often, youth are committed when Probation and/or other services available have been ineffective.
- **Direct File:** Transfer to adult court
 - ◆ Possible outcomes from Adult Court: Adult Prison, Adult Probation, Juvenile Commitment, Juvenile Probation

Important Information

- Two separate types of juvenile records
 - Court Record (Managed by the Clerk's Office)
 - Law Enforcement Record (Managed by FDLE)
- Law Enforcement Records are **NOT** confidential. Pay a \$24.00 fee to request a criminal record search through FDLE.
- Juveniles can remain on juvenile Probation past the age of 18, the Court has jurisdiction over most juveniles on Probation until age 19.
- Some juveniles may be able to have their juvenile record expunged (removed from FDLE records) or sealed (placed under highly restricted access).
 - Review FDLE website for additional information
 - Consult an attorney if necessary
 - Review *Expunction Fact Sheet* on the 15th Circuit Website:
 - ◆ <http://15thcircuit.co.palm-beach.fl.us/documents/10179/4982373/Expunction-Factsheet-June-2016-Updated.pdf>

Potential Consequences of Juvenile Record

- Educational setting may be notified; suspension
- Driving privileges may be suspended
- May be fired from employment; may be unable to secure certain jobs in the future
- May be disqualified from access to public housing
- May be ineligible to join certain branches of the military
- Future educational goals/scholarships may be impacted
- Permanent record of DNA/photos/fingerprints

