

## WHAT IS PAY?

Prosecution Alternatives for Youth (PAY) is a diversion program designed to hold juvenile offenders responsible for their delinquent behavior, while at the same time giving them the opportunity to have their case not prosecuted in Juvenile Court.

## HOW ARE JUVENILE OFFENDERS REFERRED TO PAY?

Juvenile offenders can be referred to PAY by either the State Attorney's Office or a Civil Citation issued by law enforcement.

First time misdemeanors, repeat misdemeanors, and some felony charges, as well as certain cases where the child is in need of services, can be referred to the PAY program by the State Attorney's Office. Once all issued sanctions have been completed, including any counseling or restitution ordered, the State Attorney's Office is notified and the charges are no-filed.

Civil Citations are issued to the offender at the discretion of law enforcement. The Department of Juvenile Justice designed this program to give first time misdemeanor offenders an opportunity to participate in intervention at the earliest stage of delinquency. The juvenile's parent/guardian is required to attend an orientation and a hearing will follow to assign sanctions.

The juvenile must accept responsibility for their charges in order to participate. If the juvenile offender does not successfully

complete the PAY program, their case will be referred to the State Attorney's Office for prosecution in Juvenile Court.

## HOW DOES PAY WORK?

When a juvenile offender is charged with a delinquent act, the State Attorney's Office reviews the charge and the juvenile's prior record to determine if the case should be referred to the PAY program. Once the case is referred and accepted by PAY, the juvenile and their parent/guardian are offered the option of accepting PAY in lieu of the case remaining in the Juvenile court system. If they choose to participate in PAY, the case will then be referred to either Teen Court or the Juvenile Alternative Services Program (JASP).

## TEEN COURT

Teen Court is a judiciary formatted program where the majority of participants are teen who volunteers. Any student may volunteer to participate in Teen Court provided they are between 13 and 17 years of age and have no pending charges or sanctions. Teen volunteers must also complete training in Courtroom Procedures, Juvenile Justice Procedures, and Sanction Philosophy. The juvenile offender becomes the defendant in a courtroom setting where other teen volunteers will serve as the prosecutor, defense attorney, and jury. An attorney will preside over the process as the judge. Sanctions are issued as part of this process. One of the sanctions will require the juvenile defendant to return to Teen Court to serve as a juror on at least one occasion.

Once all other sanctions are met, the juvenile may become a volunteer member of Teen Court.

## JASP - JUVENILE ALTERNATIVE SERVICES PROGRAM

The Juvenile Alternative Services Program (JASP) is designed to address more involved cases, such as repeat misdemeanor and some felony offender cases. It also addresses cases where the offender is in need of services such as counseling or drug abuse assessment. A hearing is conducted by a PAY Arbitrator/Hearing Officer and sanctions are issued. The Hearing Officers/Arbitrators are volunteers who complete 25 hours of training in Juvenile Justice Procedures and Sanction Philosophy. They must also complete a minimum of six hours of in-service training each year.

Whether the juvenile offender is assigned to the Teen Court Program or JASP, they are given a specific amount of time to complete their sanctions. PAY staff monitors the juvenile's progress and once all sanctions are successfully completed, the State Attorney's Office or SCSO is notified and the charges are no-filed. Failure to complete the assigned sanctions will result in the case being returned to the State Attorney's Office for prosecution in Juvenile Court.

