

**IN THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR MANATEE,  
SARASOTA, AND DESOTO COUNTIES, FLORIDA**

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 2015-15A.8  
Amending AO 2015-15.8**

**CIVIL CITATIONS FOR JUVENILE OFFENSES – TEEN COURT**

**(Repealing AO 2011-11.8 and AO 2009-10.8)**

**WHEREAS**, the legislature has enacted section 985.12, Florida Statutes, revising the requirements for civil citations issued to juvenile offenders effective October 1, 2015; and

**WHEREAS**, § 985.12, Florida Statutes (2015), authorizes the establishment of a juvenile civil citation process for the purpose of providing an efficient and innovative alternative to custody for youths who commit non-serious delinquent acts; and

**WHEREAS**, the three counties of the Twelfth Judicial Circuit have existing Teen Court diversionary programs that have provided alternatives to custodial arrest and have a proven history of effectively mitigating juvenile delinquency in the community; and

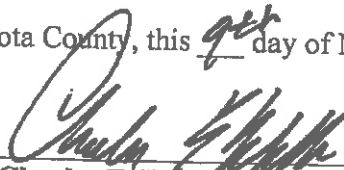
**WHEREAS**, the Teen Court programs operating in the Twelfth Circuit constitute “other similar diversion programs” within the meaning of section 985.12, Florida Statutes.

**NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED:**

1. The Teen Court programs currently operating in Sarasota, Manatee, and Desoto Counties are authorized entities to establish and implement separate and independent diversion programs using civil citations, provided the requirements of § 985.12 (1), Florida Statutes (2015), have been met. These include the following:
  - a. Each entity receiving a law enforcement referral to its program through a civil citation shall promptly provide a copy of the citation to DJJ, and DJJ shall enter the appropriate information into the juvenile offender information system.
  - b. At the conclusion of the program, the agency operating the program shall promptly report the outcome to DJJ, using such format as the Department may direct.
2. Section 985.12 (1), Florida Statutes, requires law enforcement officers who arrest for citation-eligible offenses to provide written documentation as to why the arrest was warranted. The state attorney in consultation with DJJ and the heads of law enforcement agencies shall adopt a form of civil citation that complies with the documentation requirement.

3. Upon acceptance of a minor into a Teen Court program, if a youth appears in need of additional services not provided by Teen Court, the entity may refer him or her to DJJ for assessment, treatment, and participation in such DJJ programs as the Department may deem appropriate, including anger management, domestic violence, and family and mental health counseling.

**DONE AND ORDERED** in Sarasota, Sarasota County, this 9<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2015.

  
Charles E. Williams, Chief Judge

Distribution to:

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