

HENDRY COUNTY JUVENILE ARBITRATION PROGRAM PROCEDURES

STEPS	DIRECTIONS	COMMENTS
Court Hearing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The Judge hears your case and approves your child for the JA program ✓ You will meet Program Services Coordinator in conference room for Intake Session immediately after hearing 	<i>Parents/guardian present with youth</i>
Intake Session	<p>You will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Learn about the program ✓ Sign Program Information Sheet ✓ Sign Waiver to Speedy Trial ✓ Provide current contact information ✓ Obtain date for first hearing 	<i>Court interpreter is available</i>
First Hearing	<p>You will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Meet the Arbitrator at designated office ✓ Discuss the case ✓ Obtain sanctions ✓ Obtain date for 2nd hearing ✓ Perform sanctions as assigned 	<i>Bring an interpreter if necessary</i>
Second Hearing	<p>You will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Meet with Arbitrator at Sheriff's Office ✓ Submit your completed assignments <p>Your case will be closed if all sanctions are completed satisfactorily. Your case will be referred back to State Attorney's Office if sanctions are not completed satisfactorily.</p>	<i>Parents inform arbitrator about any situation affecting the program.</i>

JA program explained on the next page

JUVENILE ARBITRATION AT A GLANCE

The Juvenile Arbitration is a program where children who have committed certain relatively minor offenses can be dealt with in a speedy and informal manner, without having to appear before a judge in Juvenile Court. It functions as a **Diversion Program**. Juvenile Arbitration is an alternative to Juvenile Court. It is a voluntary program in that both the child and parent must agree to participate in all hearings.

It is usually for first time misdemeanor offenders arising from arrests or citizen complaints. Some examples of offenses are possession of illegal drugs or controlled substance, trespassing, possession of alcohol, loitering and prowling, disorderly conduct.

Arbitration hearings are of an informal setting. During the course of the hearing, the child is given the opportunity to explain the circumstances of the incident that brought him to Arbitration. Once all of the facts pertaining to the incident have been reviewed and discussed, the **Juvenile Arbitrator** will assess the child's responsibility in the incident. The Arbitrator will then assign appropriate sanctions to be completed. Sanctions may include community service work, restitution, counseling, drug assessment and evaluation as well as other forms of rehabilitative activity.

The Arbitrator will conduct follow-up hearings to reevaluate the child's progress and to verify that the child has completed all sanctions satisfactorily. The State Attorney's Office, the Department of Juvenile Justice, and the Juvenile Clerks Office are then notified of their completion and no further legal action is taken. If the juvenile fails to complete the assigned sanctions, the case is referred back to the State Attorney's Office for Prosecution.

The program requires the youth to accept the charge and voluntarily participate in the program. It also requires parental consent and participation in the program.