



ELIZABETH A. METZGER  
CHIEF JUDGE

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NINETEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
OF FLORIDA

COUNTIES OF MARTIN, ST. LUCIE,  
INDIAN RIVER AND OKEECHOBEE

100 EAST OCEAN BOULEVARD  
STUART, FLORIDA 34994

Wydee'a E. Wilson, CPM  
Chief Probation Officer  
Department of Juvenile Justice, Circuit 19  
337 North 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Ste. 307  
Fort Pierce, Florida 34950

April 9, 2018

Dear Ms. Wilson:

In 2006, the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit entered into an interagency agreement for the establishment of a juvenile civil citation program with the Offices of the State Attorney and Public Defender, the Department of Juvenile Justice, the Vero Beach Police Department, and the respective Sheriffs of Indian River, Martin, St. Lucie, and Okeechobee Counties. Since that time, Court Administration has operated a civil citation program for juveniles referred pre-arrest by law enforcement in accordance with section 985.12, Florida Statutes, as well as a juvenile diversion program for juveniles referred post-arrest through the Office of the State Attorney.

Section 985.12 was substantially amended during the 2018 legislative session, and the statute no longer contemplates any participation by the judicial branch in either the establishment or operation of civil citation. In addition, statutory fees used to support both civil citation and juvenile diversion have steadily declined over the years to the point where it is no longer financially feasible for Court Administration to operate the programs. Consequently, I am writing today to inform you that Court Administration will be phasing out both programs within the next few months. Court Administration staff and I will continue to work with the representatives of all parties to the interagency agreement and others to ensure that civil citation and juvenile diversion will continue under the direction and management of new and existing providers in the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth A. Metzger  
Chief Judge