

IF I AM ARRESTED OR CONVICTED AS A JUVENILE, DOES MY ARREST RECORD OR COURT RECORD GO AWAY WHEN I BECOME AN ADULT?

Not necessarily. It is a common misunderstanding that when youth are arrested or convicted that their record does not follow them into adulthood. A juvenile arrest or conviction can have consequences even when youth become adults.



Even for youth who successfully complete a court diversion program, their arrest may still remain on their record.

This brochure was prepared by the Juvenile Assessment Center of Lee County. It is provided as a general overview of the consequences of a juvenile arrest in the state of Florida as of 2012. This brochure can be downloaded from the internet at www.swfljac.org/consequences.pdf.

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Know the Law
Consequences to a Juvenile Arrest or Conviction



Information for youth on the consequences of a juvenile arrest and conviction in Florida

WHAT ARE THE CONSEQUENCES TO A YOUTH WHO IS ARRESTED OR CONVICTED?

If You Are Arrested (Even if Not Prosecuted or Found Guilty of the Delinquent Act), You:

1. Will be fingerprinted and photographed.
2. May be questioned by police without your parent or attorney being notified or being present.
3. Will have your fingerprints submitted to the FDLE database and the FBI database.
4. May be asked during the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) intake, private personal information without your parent being present.
5. Can expect some private personal information provided during the intake to the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) to be viewed by the prosecutor and the judge.
6. May have your school notified of your arrest and you may be suspended from school (even if the offense did not happen at the school).

7. May face media exposure because your arrest record (name, photo, address, and crime or arrest report) is open to the public if you are arrested for a felony.
8. Can expect intake information to be included in the DJJ database. It may not be removed for 25 years after your final referral to DJJ.



9. May be removed from the U.S. if you are not a U.S. permanent resident or citizen.
10. May be charged as an adult, depending on the crime.
11. Will not be able to seal or expunge your arrest information in the FBI or in private databases.
12. May have a difficult time obtaining a job because your arrest record is public.

If You Are Found Delinquent (Guilty) or Convicted as a Result of a Trial or No Contest or Guilty Plea, You :

1. Will have to give your DNA for the State's DNA database if you are adjudicated for a felony.
2. May have your learner's permit or driver's license suspended if you are adjudicated for a drug charge.
3. May not be able to serve in the military, depending on the type and number of your adjudications.
4. May not be able to become a law enforcement officer and can be excluded from many other jobs, depending upon your adjudication.
5. Will not be eligible to petition to seal or expunge your juvenile record.
6. Will continue to have a juvenile criminal record until age 24.
7. May not be able to receive certain scholarships or gain entrance into some colleges or universities.
8. May have to explain your adjudication as a minor on some job applications, even when you become an adult.
9. May be excluded from renting some apartments or housing that requires a background check.