



Miami-Dade Police Department

Director's Office



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May 22, 2015

Dear Students/Parents/Guardians/School Board Employees:

The Miami-Dade Police Department would like to take this opportunity to inform you about the Miami-Dade County Juvenile Curfew Ordinance (Miami-Dade County Code of Ordinances, Sec. 21-201 – 21-219). On April 21, 2015, the Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners passed a Resolution directing additional resources be dedicated towards enforcement of the Miami-Dade County Juvenile Curfew Ordinance.

Since the Juvenile Curfew Ordinance was enacted in 1994, and based on the recent request for increased enforcement, it is important to remind everyone of its restrictions and exceptions. Therefore, we have provided the enclosed flyer to better assist you with understanding the Ordinance's requirements.

The Ordinance is just one of many tools that the Miami-Dade Police Department has utilized to successfully reduce juvenile-involved criminal activity.

We look forward to working together to make our community safer.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "J.D. Patterson".

J.D. Patterson
Director

Enclosure

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY JUVENILE CURFEW ORDINANCE

The "Miami-Dade County Juvenile Curfew Ordinance" (Miami-Dade County Code of Ordinances, Sec. 21-201 – 21-219) went into effect on February 17, 1994. This Ordinance is enforceable throughout all of Miami-Dade County.

CURFEW HOURS

The Curfew Ordinance states that it is unlawful for any juvenile under the age of 17 to be in any public or quasi-public place, whether on foot or in a vehicle, during the curfew hours. The curfew hours are 11:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m., Sunday through Thursday, and 12:00 midnight until 6:00 a.m., Friday and Saturday.

ORDINANCE EXCEPTIONS

There are, however, numerous exceptions to the curfew which lawfully allow a juvenile to be out during the curfew hours. These exceptions are as follows:

- 1) A juvenile accompanied by a parent or legal guardian.
- 2) A juvenile who is with a person 21 years of age or older and that person has the permission of the juvenile's parent or legal guardian to be in charge of the juvenile.
- 3) A juvenile who is working or traveling directly to or from work.
- 4) A juvenile who is traveling interstate.
- 5) A juvenile who is running an errand for a parent or legal guardian and has written permission from that parent or legal guardian to do so.
- 6) A juvenile who is aiding or assisting in an emergency.
- 7) A juvenile attending or traveling directly to or from a school, religious, or recreational event sponsored by Dade County, the Dade County School Board, a municipality, or a civic organization.
- 8) A juvenile who has been emancipated either by marriage or by court order.
- 9) A juvenile who is homeless.
- 10) A juvenile who is exercising his or her First Amendment rights.
- 11) A juvenile who is on the swale or sidewalk in front of the juvenile's residence or a next door neighbor's residence if the neighbor does not object.
- 12) A juvenile with written permission from a parent or legal guardian who is attending or returning from a public event which is open to the general public and begins before 10:00 p.m.
- 13) A juvenile who is authorized by the County Commission to be out in public during curfew hours.

RESPONSIBILITY OF PARENTS

It shall be unlawful for the parent, legal guardian, or other adult person at least twenty-one (21) years of age having the care, custody or control of a juvenile to violate the Ordinance. A defense to this section includes if they are accompanying the juvenile, if the police are notified that the child is missing, if they had no knowledge of the location of the juvenile during curfew hours, and they exercise reasonable care and diligence and should not have known that the juvenile was in violation of the curfew.

PENALTY OR REMEDY FOR VIOLATIONS

- (a) Any parent, legal guardian or other adult person at least twenty-one (21) years of age having the legal care, custody or control of a juvenile, will receive a written warning for the first and second violation, and the third and any subsequent violation shall result in the issuance of a notice to appear and shall be punished by a fine not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500.00).
- (b) Any juvenile violating the Ordinance for the first and second time shall be taken into custody and transported immediately to the police station, substation, or other appropriate holding facility, or to the juvenile's home. With the third and any subsequent violation, a juvenile civil citation may be issued in accordance with the provisions of Section 985.301, Florida Statutes.