

THE CHILDREN'S CAMPAIGN

2021 Bill Highlights

As of 5/3/2021

HB 93 & SB 274 – Juvenile Diversion Program Expunction

Sponsors: Representative Smith (R- Winter Springs) & Senator Perry (R-Gainesville)

Outcome: HB 93 has been laid on the table. SB 274 passed the legislature and is awaiting the governor's signature.

Target Population: Minors with non-judicial arrest records who successfully complete diversion programs.

Summary: Allows minors who successfully complete diversion programs to expunge, or remove, nonjudicial arrest charges and their participation in diversion programs from the public record.

How the Bills Differ:

- The bills are identical



Impact: Youthful misdeeds can impact children throughout their life if they aren't given the opportunity to remove these issues from the public record. Having a record can impact children's long- and short-term job options, and limit their access to educational opportunities, scholarships, and housing. Thanks to the work of advocates, including The Children's Campaign, local and state elected officials, juvenile justice stakeholders, state attorneys, public defenders and law enforcement organizations, Florida's laws are moving the juvenile justice system away from punitive measures. Strengthening the confidentiality of juvenile records and lowering the age for expunction allows mistakes made as a child to stay in the past. This bill supports this change by allowing juveniles that the court has decided are best served in a diversion program - a program that focuses on rehabilitation and support to keep the youth from reoffending - the ability to expunge their records and not impact potential jobs, education, military service and housing.

The Children's Campaign supports these bills that build on the important work of preventing youthful misdeeds from impacting a child's future.

Effective date: July 1st, 2021

