

PASCO SHERIFF'S OFFICE

A GUIDE TO RAISING RESPONSIBLE AND RESILIENT YOUTH



FOR PARENTS AND GUARDIANS
AN INFORMATION AND RESOURCE GUIDE



INFORMATION AND RESOURCE GUIDE

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**GET MORE INFO AT:
PASCOSHERIFF.COM/YOUTH-SERVICES**





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INFORMATION AND RESOURCE GUIDE

INTRODUCTION

The Pasco Sheriff's Office (PSO) is dedicated to serving the citizens of Pasco County. PSO has a variety of programs and personnel specifically dedicated to working with youth in our community. Our agency recognizes the challenges children and their families face sometimes go beyond the scope of a law enforcement deputy's role. This guide is a resource for parents and caregivers in need of assistance.

Information in this resource guide is designed to direct parents and caregivers to agencies or programs to help meet the specific needs of youth and their families. It is important to note that the Pasco Sheriff's Office does not specifically endorse or recommend the programs or agencies listed in this guide. Additionally, the exclusion of programs does not indicate a disapproval of that program by PSO.

PSO recommends that parents and caregivers contact an agency directly to gain a full understanding of the program's current availability, criteria and cost. Information in this guide is subject to change without PSO's knowledge.





INFORMATION AND RESOURCE GUIDE

PSO LOCATIONS

WEST OPERATIONS

7432 Little Rd.
New Port Richey, FL 34654
727-847-5878

EAST OPERATIONS

36409 CR 52
Dade City, FL 33525
352-518-5000

YOUTH SERVICES/DIVERSION

11530 Trinity Blvd.
Trinity, FL 34655
727-372-5920

FIND US ONLINE AT:

PascoSheriff.com
News.PascoSheriff.com

MUNICIPAL POLICE DEPARTMENTS IN PASCO COUNTY

NEW PORT RICHEY
POLICE DEPARTMENT
727-841-4550

DADE CITY POLICE
DEPARTMENT
352-521-1490

PORT RICHEY POLICE
DEPARTMENT
727-816-1919

ZEPHYRHILLS
POLICE DEPARTMENT
813-780-0500

EMERGENCY - DIAL 9-1-1

School Contacts

If you develop concerns for your child, their school may be able to assist, or direct you to support resources. Consider contacting the School Principal, Assistant Principal, Guidance Counselor, School Social Worker, School Psychologist or School Nurse to seek assistance. It is helpful to know that many schools offer counseling and support groups for students, as well as parent assistance on various topics.



In addition to the school, you may also contact the Pasco County School District. They can direct you to the appropriate staff member at your child's school to discuss your child's needs and develop a plan for support. The following are phone numbers for the main Pasco County School District offices:

West Pasco
(727) 774-2000

Central Pasco
(813) 794-2000

East Pasco
(352) 524-2000

The Pasco Sheriff's Office provides School Resource Officers (SROs) to staff many public middle and high schools throughout Pasco County. Public Schools that do not have an assigned SRO are staffed with a School Safety Guardian (SSG) employed by the school district. The primary responsibility of all SROs and SSGs is the safety of students, staff and the security of schools. Please reach out to your child's specific school to obtain the name and contact information for the assigned School Resource Officer or School Safety Guardian.



Students in Transition

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act is a federal law that defines the education rights of homeless children and youth and the responsibilities of Local Education Agencies (LEAs). The term "homeless children and youth" means individuals who lack a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence. Per Florida Statute §11431-11435, Students in Transition (S.I.T.) shall provide services to ensure that each child of a homeless individual and each homeless youth has equal access to the same free, appropriate public education, including a public preschool education, as provided to other children and youth. The S.I.T. Team works to ensure that homeless students receive the services to which they are entitled, such as immediate school enrollment, assistance with transportation to school of origin and free meals.



ATTENDANCE

Students in Transition

5334 Parkway Blvd.
Land O'Lakes, FL 34639
Central Pasco (813) 794-4980
East Pasco (352) 524-4980
West Pasco (727) 774-4980

http://www.pasco.k12.fl.us/ssps/students_in_transition



RUNNING AWAY...

What do you do when your child runs away?



Running away from home is a relatively common behavior among adolescents. Many teenagers experience feelings of frustration, confusion or conflict at home, leading them to run away temporarily. These situations can be caused by various factors such as family issues, peer pressure, school problems and personal challenges. It is essential for parents, caregivers and communities to understand the underlying reasons behind this behavior and provide appropriate support, communication and resources to help adolescents navigate these challenges effectively.

Most of the time the child will return home rather quickly, or the parents or caregivers may know the whereabouts of the child. If the parent or caregiver knows the location of their child, they should attempt to recover the child. If a parent or caregiver does not know the location of their child, or the child is clearly refusing to return home, the parent or caregiver should contact local law enforcement. There is no waiting period for reporting runaways, but parents should use good judgement when making the decision to declare their child a runaway. Once reported, a law enforcement officer or deputy will conduct a preliminary investigation to gather information and attempt to locate the child. Information such as clothing description, physical description, past occurrences, known acquaintances, trackable technology and social media accounts will be helpful to know. A recent photograph will also be requested, if available. If the deputy does not locate the runaway by the

end of their shift, the report will be forwarded to the Missing and Exploited Persons Unit for follow-up.

When a child who has been on runaway status returns home, either voluntarily or because a parent or caregiver was able to recover the child, the parent or caregiver should immediately notify law enforcement. This allows law enforcement to document the child's safety and cancel all computer entries showing the child as a runaway.

The **RAP House** (Runaway Alternative Project) is a local alternative placement program for youth in Pasco County who are considering running away from home or exhibiting ungovernable or challenging behaviors. The RAP House is a short-term placement facility that can address the youth's behavior and attempt interventions to remediate behavior. Parents/Guardians can call the shelter directly for possible short-term placement at **(727) 835-1777**.

The National Runaway Safeline (NRS) is a 24/7 hotline and online service that provides support, information and resources to runaway, homeless and at-risk youth in the United States. If you or someone you know needs assistance, you can contact them at 1-800-RUNAWAY (1-800-786-2929) or visit their website @ 1800runaway.org. They offer confidential help and are there to listen and support young people during difficult situations.

Runaway Child Checklist

Parent/Caregiver Aid for a Runaway Child

The Pasco Sheriff's Office recognizes the stress associated with families dealing with a child who has run away. This checklist empowers parents to obtain important information that will help law enforcement locate your child as quickly as possible.

Child's name _____

Age _____ Height _____ Weight _____ Hair Color _____ Eye Color _____ Race _____

List of known medical issues _____

What was your child wearing the last time you saw them? _____

Has your child run away before? _____

Where did they go? _____

List child's friends/family/associates who might know where your child is:

NAME	Home Address	Phone Number

List your child's social media accounts (e.g. Facebook, Snapchat, TikTok, Instagram, X, etc.). Include the username/profile name and password for each account.

PARENTS

1. Keep an updated photo of your child.
2. Your child may have both public and private social media accounts. Attempt to identify all accounts.

HOW TO TALK ABOUT IT

1. What is your favorite website or app? What do you like to do there?
2. Have you ever seen something online you did not want to see?
3. Do you ever talk to people you don't know online? What do you talk about?
4. Can you show me which sites and apps you are using?
5. Would you feel comfortable if I checked your accounts?
6. What kinds of things do you post?
7. How do you decide whom to add as a friend?
8. How much personal information do you share online?



Truancy is when a minor student accumulates 15 unexcused absences in a period of 90 calendar days.



TRUANCY

Truancy is a serious concern; it poses several significant problems, both for individual students and for our community as a whole. Truancy can lead to academic struggles, limited opportunities, social isolation, increased dropout risks, legal consequences and a negative impact on the community. The responsibilities of parents with chronically truant students can include legal penalties and fines. Parents may be criminally prosecuted, ordered to attend mandatory parenting classes or the child could be referred to the Courts. Florida Statute §1003.27 states parents are responsible for ensuring their children are registered for school according to the local school calendar, that the child arrives on time and attends school on a regular basis.

Parents should establish explicit guidelines concerning school attendance and foster a lifestyle that encourages consistent attendance and academic achievement. If issues related to truancy arise, this guide provides a list of agencies that can assist.

UNGOVERNABLE BEHAVIOR

Every child will sometimes display inappropriate or rebellious behavior. When a child develops a pattern of refusing to respond to parental authority, displays indifference towards consequences and/or engages in harmful or illegal behavior, outside assistance may be needed. Children who refuse to attend school, who run away or who otherwise fail to comply with reasonable parental demands place themselves at risk for a variety of harmful consequences. It is important that parents seek assistance once they feel they are losing control of their child's behavior.

Several of the agencies listed in this guide can be of assistance in helping families deal with a child's ungovernable behavior.

DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE



The Florida Department of Juvenile Justice is a state agency that provides programs and services on a local level. Most of these programs deal with sanctions and supervision of juveniles who have been found guilty of crimes. The Pasco Sheriff's Office participates in unique and effective prevention and intervention programs, such as:

**Juvenile Arbitration Program
Sixth Judicial Circuit
(727) 847-8915**

**Pasco Sheriff's Office
Youth Services/Diversion
(727) 810-6009**

The Department of Juvenile Justice is available to assist parents who are dealing with delinquent behavior, or who have children currently involved in the criminal justice system. The Pasco Juvenile Detention Center is located on SR 52, just west of Interstate I-75. The main phone number to the Pasco Juvenile Detention Center is (352) 588-5900. For more information, contact their offices:

**New Port Richey Office
(727) 484-3557**

**Trinity Office
(727) 372-5920**

**Dade City Office
(352) 521-1320**

What Is Youth Diversion?

Youth Diversion is a program of the Pasco Sheriff's Office where juvenile offenders are evaluated for referral to a diversion program in lieu of the criminal intake process.

The Goal of Youth Diversion

The goal of the diversion program is to provide positive alternatives to the formal court process and to prevent at-risk youth from entering the juvenile justice system while ensuring that effective consequences deter further criminal behavior.

Who Is Eligible:

- The program is designed for certain youth between the ages of 10-17 years old;
- Youth must admit to the offense;
- Must be younger than 18 at the time of the offense;
- Must not currently be on probation or have pending charges;
- Cannot have previously failed diversion;
- Must be enrolled in school or employed;
- Must have committed a misdemeanor for the first, second or third time; and
- Third-degree felony, for the first time that does NOT involve: a weapon in the commission of a crime or theft of a motorized vehicle.

Cost of the Program

There is no fee associated with the program unless a youth is referred to an outside agency for services such as urine drug screens, mental health counseling, anger management, etc. In such cases where a referral is necessary, the ability to pay is kept in mind. There are agencies available that accept private insurance and Medicaid, while others offer a sliding scale for their fees. Some agency services are free of charge based upon income guidelines. The Pasco Sheriff's Office attempts to accommodate financial hardships while ensuring effective treatment is available to the youth and their family.

Juvenile Arrest Record

Upon successful completion of the program, charges will be dismissed. If a youth fails to actively participate, unsuccessfully completes the program or commits a new criminal offense during the program, the charges will be referred to the State Attorney's Office for review/prosecution.

Common Sanctions

Youth will see a combination of sanctions imposed. Please note that sanctions are assigned on a case-by-case basis, and may include:

- Community Service
- Restitution, if applicable
- Random Drug Screens
- Substance Abuse Assessments
- Mental Health Counseling
- Anger Management
- Classes or Programs
- Educational Essay
- Letter(s) of apology
- No association with victims

EMANCIPATION

Emancipation is a court action which removes the juvenile from parental control and responsibility, allowing the juvenile to function as an adult. A circuit court judge may grant a petition from a parent or legal guardian or a juvenile sixteen (16) years of age or older, after it has been established that the juvenile has the capacity to care for himself/herself. In Pasco County, you can file a petition for Emancipation if you know how to properly file the petition. In most cases, a private attorney is retained to petition the court in this type of proceeding. Florida Statute 743.015 addresses this area of law. More information can be obtained from the Pasco County Clerk of Court.

Pasco County Clerk website:

<https://www.pascoclerk.com/>

CINS/FINS PROCESS

CINS/FINS stands for Child in Need of Services/ Family in Need of Services. This network helps youth and families seeking help with problems at home, school or anywhere. After contact is made with Youth and Family Advocates, a screening will be conducted with the assigned case manager to evaluate the youth's needs and appropriate support to address the presenting issues. An intake will then take place to further evaluate and ascertain important information to offer support and remediate ongoing issues.

In many cases, the intervention of the presented support services will assist the family to resolve the difficulties they are facing. This proactive approach seeks to foster positive development, prevent escalation of issues and contribute to the overall well-being and success of youth within the community.

Should all efforts be exhausted due to several reasons, including the lack of engagement of the child, a petition may be filed that will allow a judge to intervene.

DIVERSION

Services Provided

An initial assessment is conducted on all youth entering the program to determine their individual needs and the level of service necessary. An individual case plan will be created for all youth and/or family to address their specific needs and assigned sanctions.

Length of the Program

The length of a youth's diversion program will depend upon several factors such as: age, type of offense, previous legal involvement, school attendance, home behavior, and compliance with the program requirements, rules and guidelines. While there is a minimum length requirement for the program, continued lack of compliance can lead to the program being extended or a referral to the juvenile justice system. Each program is specifically tailored to the needs of the juvenile offender encouraging the best possible outcome.

Benefits of the Program

- Offers juvenile offenders and their families an alternative to the formal court process.
- Quickly addresses delinquent behavior as early as possible.
- Reduces truancy – resulting in reduced school costs and ultimately reduces high school dropout in participants.
- Reduces recidivism.
- Upon successful completion of the program, the charge(s) against the youth will be dismissed.

Substance Abuse & Misuse

Teen substance abuse and misuse are serious concerns that can have a significant impact on physical and mental health. According to the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, young people who persistently abuse substances often experience an array of problems. These problems include academic difficulties, health-related problems, mental health issues, poor peer relationships and involvement with the juvenile justice system. Consequentially, family members, the community and all of society are negatively impacted.

It is crucial to encourage open communication with teens, provide education on the risks associated with substance abuse and misuse and encourage healthy coping mechanisms.



Opioids

Opioids are a class of drugs that include prescription pain medication like oxycodone, hydrocodone, and morphine as well as illegal drugs like heroin. They work by interacting with opioid receptors in the brain and body to reduce the perception of pain.

Teen opioid use poses a serious concern as misuse can lead to addiction and other health risks. It's crucial to educate adolescents about the dangers of opioids, painkillers and illicit substances.



Wax



Dry Sift/Kief

Marijuana

Also called weed, herb, pot, grass, bud, ganja, Mary Jane and a vast number of other slang terms—is a greenish-gray mixture of the dried flowers of *Cannabis sativa*.

- THC is the main psychoactive chemical in marijuana.
- THC and terpenes (aromatic oils) are extracted from marijuana as THC concentrates, hash oil and wax. These derived products, crumble, shatter, wax and dry sift/kief, have a high dosage of THC.
- Marijuana contains much more THC than hemp, while hemp has more cannabis (CBD).

THC

THC, or tetrahydrocannabinol, is the main psychoactive compound found in cannabis. It's responsible for the "high" or euphoric effects commonly associated with marijuana use. Adolescent use of THC, often through marijuana, raises concerns due to the potential impact on developing brains. Regular use during adolescence may affect memory, learning and impulse control. It's crucial to educate teens on the potential risks, legal implications and to encourage open discussions about substance use.



Synthetic Cannabinoids

Synthetic cannabinoids are a class of synthetic molecules that bind to cannabinoid receptors in the brain and body (the same receptors to which THC and CBD attach).

- They are "designer drugs" that are usually smoked and have been marketed as herbal incense or "herbal smoking blends".
- They are sold under common names like K2, Spice, Black Mamba, Kronic and Synthetic Marijuana.

Trends and Warning Signs

Trends in drug use can vary over time and across communities. Common warning signs of drug use in teens include changes in behavior, declining academic performance, shifts in social circles, mood swings, secretive behavior, and physical signs like bloodshot eyes or changes in sleep patterns. Staying aware of these signs and maintaining open communication can help address potential issues early.

How to Talk to a Child

When talking to a child about drugs, it is essential to create an open and non-judgmental environment. Use age-appropriate language, provide accurate information about the risks and consequences of drug use and encourage questions. Listen actively, express concerns and emphasize the importance of making healthy choices. Establish clear expectations and consequences, while also acknowledging the challenges they might face. Regularly check in and maintain ongoing dialogue to reinforce the importance of their well-being.



Vaping

Vaping is the act of inhaling and exhaling aerosol, often referred to as vapor, produced by an e-cigarette or similar device. Vaping has gained popularity as an alternative to traditional smoking, but risks exist regarding its health effects, especially among young people. Health risks of vaping include potential lung damage, addiction to nicotine and exposure to harmful chemicals.

E-cigarette, or vaping products can be used to deliver nicotine, cannabis (THC, CBD), flavorings, chemicals and other substances.

They are known by many different names and come in many shapes, sizes and device types. Devices may be referred to as:

- E-cigs
- Vapes
- Vape pens, dab pens and dab rigs
- Tanks
- Mods
- Pod-Mods
- Electronic nicotine delivery systems

Use of e-cigarette, or vaping, products is sometimes referred to as "vaping" or "juuling." E-cigarette, or vaping, products used for dabbing are sometimes called "dab" pens.

E-Cigarettes with Prefilled or Refillable Cartridge

- A type of rechargeable e-cigarette or vaping product designed to be used multiple times.
- E-liquid comes in prefilled or refillable cartridges. Substances may include nicotine, cannabis (THC and CBD), flavoring solvents or other substances.
- The cartridge is attached to a battery pen, which contains the battery.
- Cartridges and battery pens are typically purchased separately. They can be bought in starter packs.



Disposable E-Cigarettes

- A type of e-cigarette designed to be used one time only.
- These devices are not rechargeable or refillable.
- They are discarded when they run out of charge or e-liquid.
- They are designed to mimic the look and feel of combustible cigarettes. These are sometimes referred to as "cigalikes."

Tanks or Mods

- A type of rechargeable e-cigarette, or vaping, product designed to be used multiple times.
- They are modifiable devices ("mods"), allowing users to customize the substances in the device.



Pod Mods

- Pod Mod is an e-cigarette, or vaping, product with a prefilled or refillable "pod" or pod cartridge, with a modifiable (mod) system ("Pod-Mods").
- These are other examples of fourth generation devices. Pod Mods come in many shapes, sizes and colors.
- Common Pod Mod brands include JUUL® and Suorin®.
- There are compatible prefilled pod cartridges that contain nicotine, THC or CBD with or without flavoring.
- Pod Mods typically use nicotine salts rather than the freebase nicotine used in most other e-cigarette, or vaping, products.
- Nicotine salts, which have a lower pH than free base nicotine, allow particularly high levels of nicotine to be inhaled more easily and with less irritation to the throat than freebase nicotine.

Vaporizers

- An inhalation device used to release the active substances of organic or inorganic materials in the form of an aerosol through the application of non-combusting heat.
- Vaporizers can be used to aerosolize dry herbs, wax and oil. For example, vaporizers are used to heat marijuana to a point where its active ingredients (e.g., THC) are released in an aerosol and inhaled.

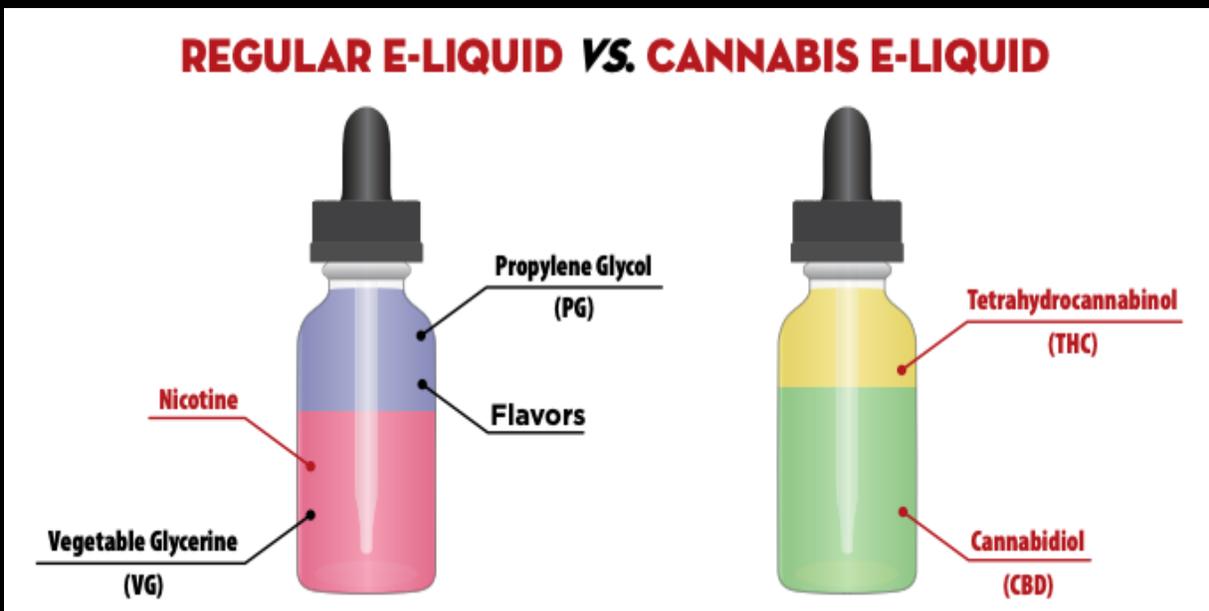


Vaping



E-Liquid

- E-liquid is converted into an aerosol by an e-cigarette or vaping product. It is typically a mixture of water, food grade flavoring, a choice of nicotine levels, cannabis (THC, CBD), propylene glycol (PG) or vegetable glycerin (VG).
- PG and VG are humectants used in e-liquid to produce aerosols that simulate combustible tobacco cigarette smoke.
- The ratio of PG and VG in the e-liquid can change based on whether flavor (higher levels of PG) or plume (higher levels of VG) is desired.



Dabbing

- Dabbing, or dibbing, is a process that allows the user to inhale a high concentration of THC by aerosolizing a concentrate on a hot surface.
- The term "dabbing" is also used to describe THC concentrates or wax in a dab pen or vaporizer.



Dab Rig



Concentrate



Torch

CBD

- CBD stands for cannabidiol, and it is derived from cannabis, marijuana and hemp.
- CBD is the main ingredient in hemp and the second main ingredient in marijuana after THC.
- CBD is not a psychoactive substance.



Mental Health & Resiliency



SIPP (STATEWIDE INPATIENT PSYCHIATRIC PROGRAM)

SIPP is committed to working with adolescents and their families to improve social, emotional and familial relationships. SIPP offers a protected residential living arrangement for children ages 11 to 18 needing a more intensive treatment level. The program provides intensive counseling, psychiatry and case management services.

If you or someone you know needs assistance, please call (866) 762-1743.

Baker Act

The Florida Mental Health Act, also known as the “Baker Act,” found under Chapter 394, Florida Statutes, focuses on crisis services for individuals with mental illness. The Baker Act facilitates the involuntary examination and treatment of individuals with mental health issues, that meet certain legally defined criteria. An involuntary examination can be initiated by a range of concerned individuals or entities, such as family members, law enforcement officers, or mental health professionals if:

- There is reason to believe an individual has a mental illness and due to the mental illness, the individual has refused or is unable to determine if examination is necessary; and either;
- Without care or treatment, the individual is unlikely to care for themselves which can result in substantial harm to their well-being, and it is not evident that harm can be avoided through familial intervention or other services; or
- It is likely, based on recent behavior, that without treatment, the individual will pose a serious threat to themselves or others.

Once the examination is initiated, the individual is evaluated by a mental health professional to ascertain if they meet the criteria for involuntary services.

If you feel your child is displaying signs of mental illness and meets the criteria for an involuntary examination, you may file a Petition and Affidavit Seeking Ex Parte Order Requiring Involuntary Examination with the Pasco County Clerk of Court. This form, and necessary filing information, can be obtained from the Pasco County Clerk of Court at the courthouse or their website. When this form is fully completed and filed, it will be reviewed by a judge. If the judge finds that legal criteria is present and approves the order, the order will be sent to law enforcement agencies for service. Upon serving of the order, the child is delivered to the nearest mental health receiving facility for evaluation to determine if they meet the criteria for involuntary services. Your child may be held up to 72 hours for the initial evaluation. Depending on the findings of the initial examination, there may be further court proceedings to determine if involuntary services, which may be inpatient, outpatient or a combination of both, will be ordered.

Further information about the process for filing a Petition and Affidavit Seeking Ex Parte Order Requiring Involuntary Examination and other information about Baker Act Proceedings, as well as the necessary legal forms can be found at the Pasco County Clerk of Court’s website at <https://www.pascoclerk.com/275/Baker-Act>

Or you can contact the Pasco County Clerk of Court by phone: **West (727) 847-8186, East (352) 523-2411**, ext. 2216. Please note the Pasco County Clerk of Court staff cannot not give legal advice.

More information about the Baker Act can be found at the Department of Children and Families website at <https://www.myflfamilies.com/crisis-services/baker-act>

MARCHMAN ACT

The Hal S. Marchman Alcohol and Other Drug Services Act of Florida of 1993, more commonly known as the "Marchman Act," found under Chapter 397, Florida Statutes, is a law that provides for voluntary and involuntary treatment of adults and youth who are severely impaired due to substance abuse.

A Petition for Involuntary Treatment may be filed with the Pasco County Clerk of Court by a parent or legal guardian, a legal custodian or a licensed service provider when there is good faith reason to believe the child is substance abuse impaired or has a substance abuse disorder and a co-occurring mental health disorder, and, because of such impairment or disorder:

- Has lost the power of self-control with respect to substance abuse; and
- Need substance abuse services and, by reason of substance abuse impairment, his or her judgment has been so impaired that he or she is incapable of appreciating his or her need for such services and of making a rational decision in that regard, although mere refusal to receive such services does not constitute evidence of lack of judgment with respect to his or her need for such services; or
- Without care or treatment, is likely to suffer from neglect or refuse to care for himself or herself; that such neglect or refusal poses a real and present threat of substantial harm to his or her well-being; and that it is not apparent that such harm may be avoided through the help of willing, able and responsible family members or friends or the provision of other services, or there is substantial likelihood that the person has inflicted, or threatened to or attempted to inflict, or, unless admitted, is likely to inflict, physical harm on himself, herself, or another.

A Petition for Involuntary Treatment will be set for a hearing within 10 days to determine if involuntary treatment services will be ordered. If the judge determines emergency circumstances exist, an order may be entered for involuntary assessment and stabilization, order the Sheriff to take the child into custody and deliver them to a licensed service provider prior to the hearing.

Depending on the findings of the judge, treatment may be ordered for an initial period not to exceed 90 days.

Further information about the process for filing a Petition for Involuntary Treatment as well as other information about Marchman Act Proceedings, including the necessary legal forms, can be found at the Pasco County Clerk of Court's website at <https://www.pascoclerk.com/277/Marchman-Act>.

Or you can contact the Pasco County Clerk of Court by phone: **West (727) 847-8186, East (352) 523-2411, ext. 2216**. Again, please note that the Pasco County Clerk of Court staff cannot give legal advice.

More information about the Marchman Act can be found at the Department of Children and Families website at <https://www.myflfamilies.com/crisis-services/marchman-act>.

Please understand that the Baker Act and Marchman Act are extensive and highly nuanced laws, with very specific procedures, time frames, and legal burdens. The information contained in this guide is in no way intended to constitute a complete overview of these laws or their legal consequences. The information contained in this guide is provided for informational purposes only, it's not intended as a substitute for legal advice from an attorney. Each case has its own set of circumstances, and an attorney may advise what is best for your child and family situation. If you have questions or concerns regarding the Baker Act, the Marchman Act, the forms and you and/or your child's legal rights, it is strongly recommended that you speak to an attorney.





BAYCARE MOBILE RESPONSE TEAM (MRT)

The Mobile Response Team is a resource for teens and adults experiencing a mental health crisis in Pasco or Hernando counties. Call the Baycare Mobile Response Team if you become aware of an individual who is expressing thoughts of self-harm, experiencing out-of-control behaviors that could cause harm or is experiencing severe stress resulting in a significant decline in daily functions. The call-taker will ask your name, address and phone number and inquire if there is an immediate danger to the individual or anyone else.

THE NUMBERS TO CALL INCLUDE:

Pasco: (727) 372-HELP (4357)
Hernando: (352) 467-OKAY (6529)



HOPE FLORIDA - A PATHWAY TO PROSPERITY

If you need to connect with a Hope Navigator, call (850) 300-HOPE (4683).

An individualized path to prosperity, economic self-sufficiency and hope. Hope Navigators are essential in helping individuals identify their unique and immediate barriers to prosperity, develop long-term goals, map out a strategic plan and work to ensure all sectors of the community have a "seat at the table" and are part of the solution.

Healthy Relationships

What you need to know

Moral/ Ethical Values Matter

Moral and ethical values are principles that guide individuals or societies in distinguishing right from wrong. They shape behavior, decisions, interactions and influence concepts like integrity, honesty, compassion and fairness. Cultivating strong moral and ethical values contributes to a more just and harmonious society.

Boundaries

Establishing clear boundaries is crucial for adolescents as they navigate relationships, responsibilities and personal development. These boundaries can involve time management, personal space, online activities and social interactions. Open communication with teens about the importance of boundaries helps foster a sense of autonomy and respect.

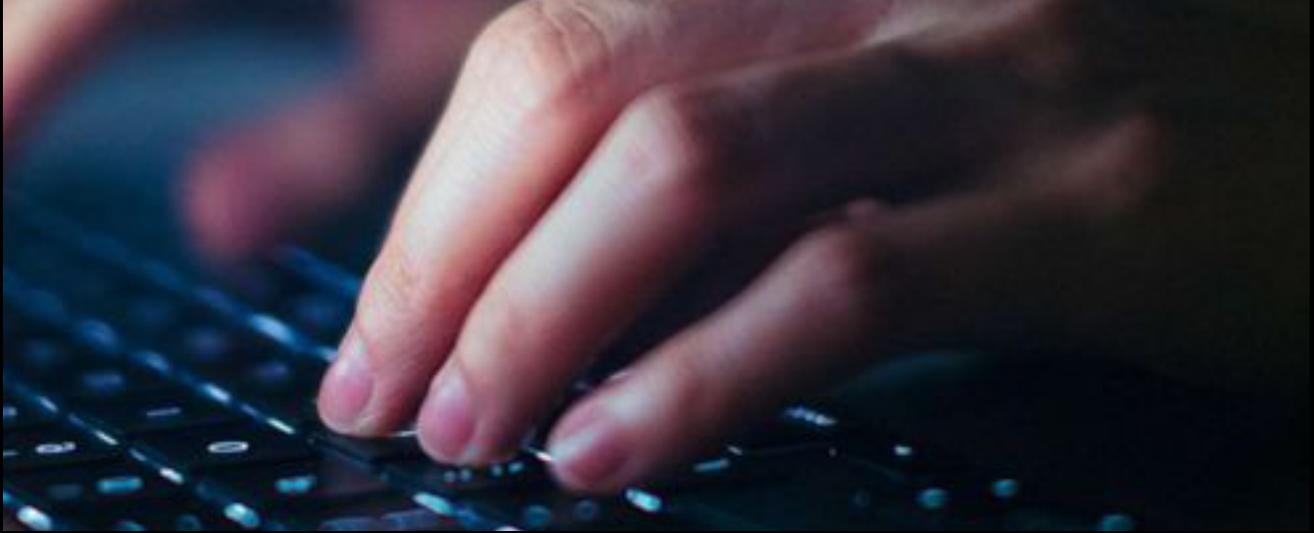
Peer Pressure

Peer pressure is the influence exerted by a peer group, encouraging individuals to conform to certain behaviors, attitudes or norms. It can be positive, motivating individuals toward beneficial actions or negative, leading to risky or undesirable choices. Developing strong communication skills and fostering a sense of self-esteem can help adolescents resist negative peer pressure and make informed decisions.

Domestic/Dating Violence

Teen domestic violence is a troubling issue that involves abusive behaviors within teenage relationships. It is essential to raise awareness through healthy relationship education and by providing supporting systems for teens experiencing or witnessing such violence.

Domestic violence refers to a pattern of abusive behaviors within a relationship, often involving physical, emotional or psychological harm. It can affect individuals of any age, gender or socioeconomic background. Addressing domestic violence requires a multidimensional approach, including awareness, education, support services and legal interventions.



Social Media

According to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC), Social media sites and apps are an important part of how we all use the internet. Younger children may enjoy sites like Animal Jam that do not fit the traditional social media mold, but still allow users to communicate with each other, while older children, teens and adults, may prefer sites like Facebook, and apps like Snapchat and Instagram.

Most social media sites and apps (including Facebook, Snapchat, X and Musical.ly) require users to be at least 13 years old, though it is not uncommon for youths to be untruthful about their date of birth in order to gain access to the site or app. By accessing these platforms before age 13, young children are at an increased risk of encountering inappropriate content and/or contact from older users.

Smartphones

Smartphone apps enable teens to watch videos and play games with their friends. However, research suggests that teens most commonly use their smartphones to send and receive text messages. It is helpful to know that teens often reserve voice calls for their closest friends and prefer to use text messages for newer friends and acquaintances. Additional research suggests that the omnipresence of smartphones helps strengthen friendships, with

62% of teen smartphone owners reporting that texting allows them to keep in contact with close friends. Additionally, having internet access via a smartphone may help teens make and maintain new friendships, with 57% reporting having made new friends online.

Of course, near constant connectivity also poses a unique set of risks, for example, **cyberbullying**. Another risk that has gained national attention is **sexting** and **sextortion**. The ubiquity of cellphones has given rise to sexting as a way for teens to explore their sexuality, though in some cases these images are used against the sender as sexual blackmail.

Sextortion

Sextortion is a form of child sexual exploitation where children are threatened or blackmailed, most often with the possibility of sharing with the public nude or sexual images of them, by a person who demands additional sexual content, sexual activity or money from the child. This crime may happen when a child has shared an image with someone they thought they knew or trusted, but in many cases they are targeted by an individual they met online who obtained a sexual image from the child through deceit, coercion or some other method. In many cases, the blackmailers may have stolen or taken images of another person and they are communicating through a fake account. The blackmailer may have sent images as well (NMEC, 2023).

Financial Sextortion [A Growing Crisis]

Financial Sextortion (“A Growing Crisis”)

The FBI reports it also has recently seen an increase in financial sextortion cases targeting minor victims in the United States. Financial sextortion is different from traditional sextortion.

In these cases, the offender receives sexually explicit material from the child and then threatens to release the compromising material unless the victim sends money and/or gift cards. The amount requested varies, and the offender often releases the victim’s sexually explicit material regardless of whether or not they receive payment. This increasing threat has resulted in an alarming number of deaths by suicide.

Sexting

According to NMEC, as children grow and develop, they become more interested in relationships and sex. One way they do this is through sexting. Sexting is the sharing and receiving of sexually explicit messages and nude or partially nude images via cellphone. Sexts may be sent as regular text messages through apps, like Snapchat, and WhatsApp or through online games. Teens may sext for a variety of reasons. They may be trying to establish intimacy with a boyfriend or girlfriend, impress a crush or be funny. Others may feel pressured into sexting by online or offline boyfriends or girlfriends who may threaten to break up with them if they don’t send a picture.

Teens may not believe or be able to foresee a situation in which the person they text an explicit photo to chooses to share that image with others. However, it does happen, and the consequences can be academically, socially and emotionally devastating.

Teens who send compromising texts may be at risk for things like sextortion, getting in trouble at school, being bullied, harassed or in extreme cases, getting in legal trouble.



Cyberbullying

According to StopBullying.gov, cyberbullying is bullying that takes place over digital devices like cell phones, computers and tablets. It can happen via text message apps, on social media, forums and gaming sites. Cyberbullying includes sending, posting, or sharing negative, harmful, false or mean content about someone else. It can also include sharing personal or private information about someone else causing embarrassment or humiliation. Signs that a child may be a victim of cyberbullying include:

- Avoiding the computer, cellphone and other technological devices or appears stressed when receiving an e-mail, instant message, or text.
- Withdrawing from family and friends or being reluctant to attend school and social events.
- Avoiding conversations about computer use.
- Exhibiting signs of low self-esteem including depression and/or fear.
- Declining grades.
- Poor eating or sleeping habits.

Human Trafficking

According to National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC), human trafficking is the exploitation of people through force, fraud or coercion for their bodies and labor. While often hard to identify, the reality is that people everywhere are being bought and sold against their will. There are more people enslaved today than at any other time in history, with roughly 40.3 million people currently enslaved representing every age, race, gender identity, sex, ethnicity, nationality, immigration status and socioeconomic class.

Child sex trafficking occurs when a child under 18 is advertised, solicited or exploited through a commercial sex act. A commercial sex act is any sex act where something of value – such as money, drugs or a place to stay – is given to or received by any person for sexual activity. While any child can be targeted, we know through research, data and survivor-lived experience that traffickers and buyers often target youth who lack strong support networks, have experienced violence in the past, are experiencing housing insecurity or homelessness or are marginalized by society.



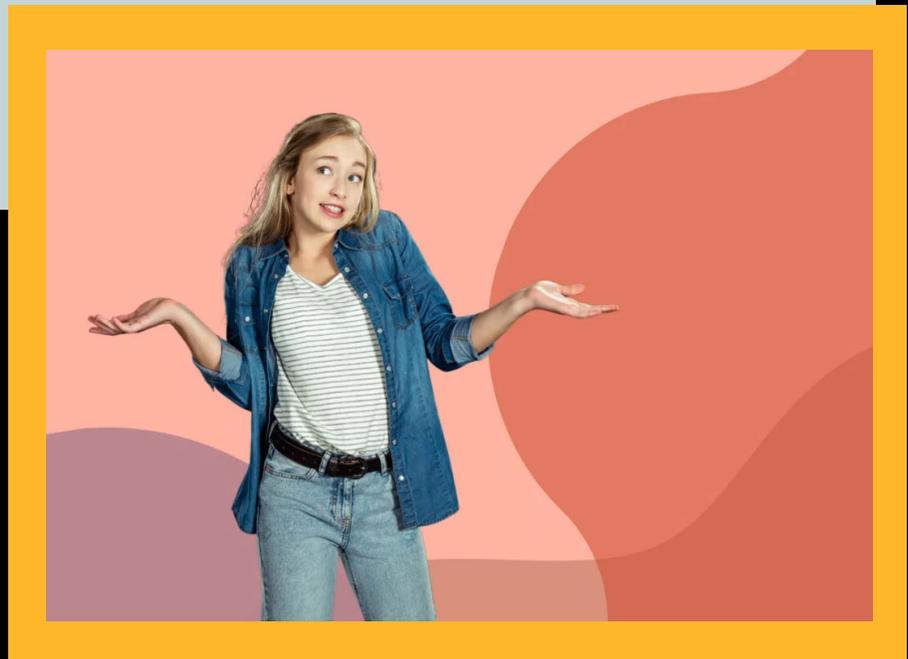
Scan CyberTipline QR code to report child sexual exploitation.



Text Slang

Teen Slang - Acronyms, Emojis & Hashtags Parents Need to Know

In the energetic world of digital communication, understanding the evolving language of teenagers has become vital for parents seeking to bridge generational gaps. Teen slang, a use of vibrant expressions like "lit" and "flex," paints a vivid picture of their social interactions. Emojis are tiny pictorial symbols that convey emotions without unnecessary words, ranging from "😄" for laughter to "💡" for thinking. Additionally, hashtags such as #TBH (To be Honest) and #FOMO (Fear of Missing Out) provide insight into the details of online discussions. By staying informed on this ever-changing teen slang, parents can foster better communication and connect more meaningfully with their tech-savvy adolescents.



Social Media

Terms

Adulging - To grow up and act responsibly.

All the feels - An exaggeration to show strong feelings, usually in a positive way.

Aesthetic - Vibe.

A mood - A relatable feeling or situation.

Amped - Very excited.

And I oop - When someone says something unexpected or provocative.

Bae - Short for "baby." It's used as a term of endearment for a significant other such as a girlfriend or boyfriend. As an acronym, it stands for "Before Anyone Else."

Basic - A non-complimentary way to say someone is only interested in trendy or popular things.

Beat - To have a full face of makeup.

Bet - Agreeing with someone. A response when someone challenges you.

Big Yikes - A more intense version of the word "yikes."

Bih - Shortened form of the word b*tch.

Blessed - Feeling fortunate.

Body count - The number of people someone has slept with.

Boots - A way to say "very" or "a lot." It's added after the verb or adjective.

Boujee - Rich or acting rich.

Bounce - Leaving suddenly.

Bruh - Casual nickname for "bro."

Bye Felicia - An expression used to dismiss someone.

Cap or Cappin' - To lie about something.

Chad - A hyper-masculine and overtly sexual young man.

Chill - Calm down, hang out.

Coins - Virtual currency that can be used to buy awards for other users on sites like Reddit.

Low-Key - A warning that what they're saying isn't something they want everyone to know.

Mom - The responsible friend.

Mod - Moderator. Someone who monitors and enforces rules for certain internet related discussions. For instance, you can be instantly banned from a chatroom if a "mod" finds your communication abusive.

Mood - Used to express something that is relatable.

Mutuals - When two social media users follow each other.

Netflix 'n Chill - To meet under the pretense of watching Netflix/TV together when actually planning to meet for "making out" or sex.

Netfly - Refers to someone who is "cool" on the internet.

No cap - Telling the truth, the equivalent of saying "no lie."

Okurrr - Something that is said to affirm when someone is being put in their place.

OK, boomer - Old, out of touch, resistant to change. Baby Boomer.

On fleek - On point, nice.

Oof - Popularized by the game Roblox, oof is the sound a character makes when it dies. It is typically used as a response when you don't really care but should say at least something.

Opp - Opposition or someone against you.

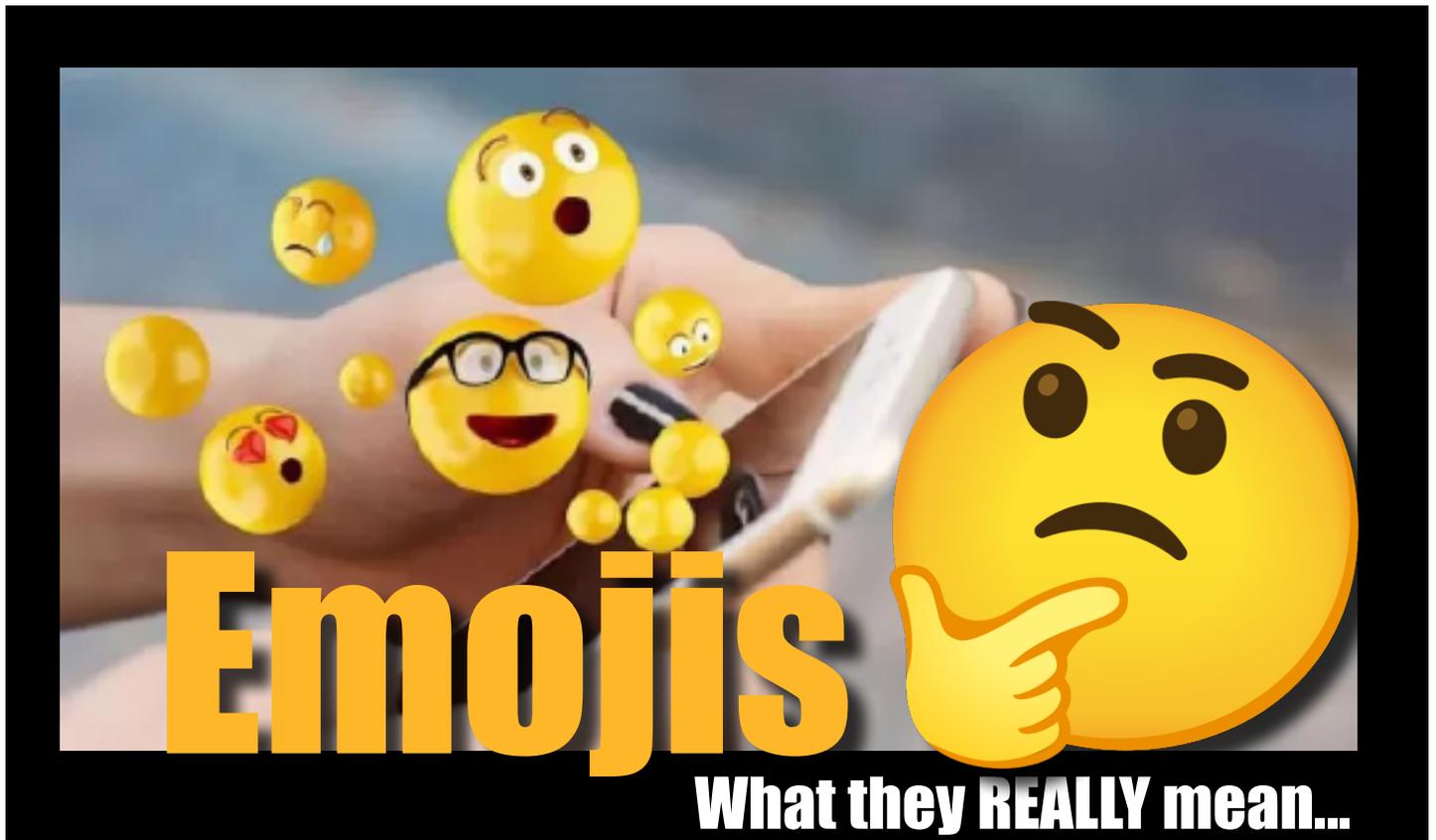
Out of pocket - Something is out of control.

Parasocial - Describes when social media influencers have or encourage unhealthy relationships with their fans.

Period - Adding emphasis to a point that has been made.

Phubbing - Snubbing someone to pay attention to your phone instead.

Pull Up, Pulling Up, Pulled Up, Pullin' Up - Used to invite someone to meet you.



Emojis are pictograph characters approved and programmed into digital language coding by the Unicode Consortium. While they are programmed with "official" meanings, social use of the images often creates "secret" or "hidden" messages. Below are some examples of emojis commonly used by teenagers.

-  Goat - "Greatest of all time."
-  Woman Tipping Hand - Used to express an exasperation "I don't even know what to think anymore."
-  Syringe - Represents getting a tattoo.
-  Kitchen Knife - Expression of being in a bad mood or wanting to cause destruction.
-  Women With Bunny Ears - Can mean a girls' night out or as code for "Sex worker."
-  Nail Polish - A response that indicates you're not bothered about something someone said about you.
-  Snake - "Backstabber."
-  Pill - Drug dealers use this to symbolize that they have heroin for sale.
-  Octopus - "Cuddles."
-  Face With Steam From Nose - Drug dealers symbolize that they have MDMA for sale.
-  Smiling Face With Horns - In the mood to have a sexual encounter with someone.
-  Maple Leaf - Can be used to symbolize cannabis or drugs in general.
-  Pizza - Can sometimes mean "I love you."

-  Snowflake - A young person who is easily offended. Also used to represent cocaine.
-  Love Hotel - Brothel
-  Fuel or Gas Pump - Marijuana
-  Four Leaf Clover - Marijuana
-  Green Check Mark - Marijuana
-  Fire - "Lit", "Fire", or "Sexy."
-  Tree - Marijuana  Herb - Marijuana  Broccoli - Marijuana
-  Water Closet - "Woman crush."
-  Electric Plug - Represents a drug dealer.
-  Dashing Away - A symbol for vaping.
-  Woman Dancing - Expressing the desire to party hard.
-  Eyes - Request that someone send an explicit picture.
-  Rocket - Drug dealers use this to symbolize that their products have a high potency.
-  Face with Open Mouth - Represents vaping or smoking.
-  Peach - Represents a person's rear-end/butt.
-  Avocado - "Basic."
-  Drooling Face - Ecstasy (aka Molly).
-  Eggplant or Banana - Male genitalia. Often sent to illustrate the anticipation of a sexual encounter.
-  Fishing Pole - Fishing for a compliment.
-  Grapes - Represents testicles.
-  Baseball Cap - A lie or not true.
-  Sweat Droplets - Represents an orgasm.
-  Skull - Used to show something is funny.
-  Raised Fist followed by Sweat Droplets - Represents masturbation.
-  An emoticon that means disapproval. Often used sarcastically.
-  Circus Tent - Represents an erection.
-  Microphone - Represents a male orgasm.
-  Cherries - Represents breasts.
-  Open Mailbox With Raised Flag - Can sometimes mean sex.
-  Dizzy Face - Having just seen something X-rated.
-  Woman Gesturing OK - Represents a female orgasm.





APPS TO KNOW

Pasco Sheriff's Office has compiled a list of common apps and some of the ways those can be misused.



PASCO SHERIFF'S OFFICE APPS TO KNOW

ASKFM



ASKfm is known for cyber bullying. The app encourages users to allow anonymous people to ask them questions.

DISCORD

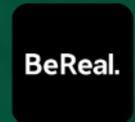


DISCORD allows users to talk to friends or strangers in real-time via voice, text or video chat while playing video games. Reviewers say they have been confronted with racial slurs, explicit content, cyberbullying and more.



KIK allows anyone to contact and direct message your child. Kids can bypass traditional text messaging features. KIK gives users unlimited access to anyone, anywhere, anytime.

BeReal



BeReal is a popular app where users take a snapshot of their front and back camera at a certain time of the day. Upon taking the pictures, the location is revealed as well. Users also have the option to share their photos publicly around the world.

LIVEME



LIVEME is a live-streaming video app that uses geolocation to share videos so users can find out a broadcaster's exact location. Users can earn "coins" as a way to "pay" minors for photos.

SNAPCHAT



SNAPCHAT is one of the most popular apps in recent years. While the app promises users can take a photo/video and it will disappear, new features including "stories" allows users to view content for up to 24 hours. Snapchat also allows users to see your location.

ChatGPT



ChatGPT is an app where generated AI offers a multitude of answers with little to no boundaries. This allows for the possibility of malicious code generation.

GRINDR



GRINDR is a dating app geared towards LGBTQ+ people. The app gives users options to chat, share photos and meet up based on a smart phone's GPS location.

MEETME



MEETME is a dating/social media app that allows users to connect with people based on geographic proximity. As the app's name suggests, users are encouraged to meet each other in person.

TIKTOK



TIKTOK is a popular app with kids used for creating and sharing short videos. With very limited privacy controls, users are very vulnerable to cyber bullying and explicit content.

BUMBLE



BUMBLE is similar to the popular dating app "Tinder" however, it requires women to make the first contact. Kids have been known to use BUMBLE to create fake accounts and falsify their age.

CHAT AVENUE



CHAT AVENUE is a website in which users may anonymously create chat rooms and no phone numbers, emails, or any type of message IDs are allowed to be posted to the public, causing a concern for exploitation.

HOLLA



HOLLA is a chat app that connects users with strangers. Criminals use the app to exploit children, often recording the video chat and using it to blackmail for additional content.

WHATSAPP



WHATSAPP is a popular messaging app that allows users to send texts, photos, voicemail, make calls, and video chats worldwide. WHATSAPP uses an internet connection on smartphones and computers.

CALCULATOR#



CALCULATOR# is only one of many secretive apps that allows users to hide photos, videos, files and browser history.

ROBLOX



ROBLOX allows users to play games, create games and chat online. Predators can use the chat feature to obtain information about other users, such as phone numbers and addresses.

REDDIT



REDDIT is a chat/discussion board app. Users can post whatever they want and there is no identity verification. Reviewers say they have been confronted with racial slurs, explicit content, cyberbullying, and more.

WHISPER



WHISPER is an anonymous social network that promotes sharing secrets with strangers. It also reveals a user's location so people can meet up.

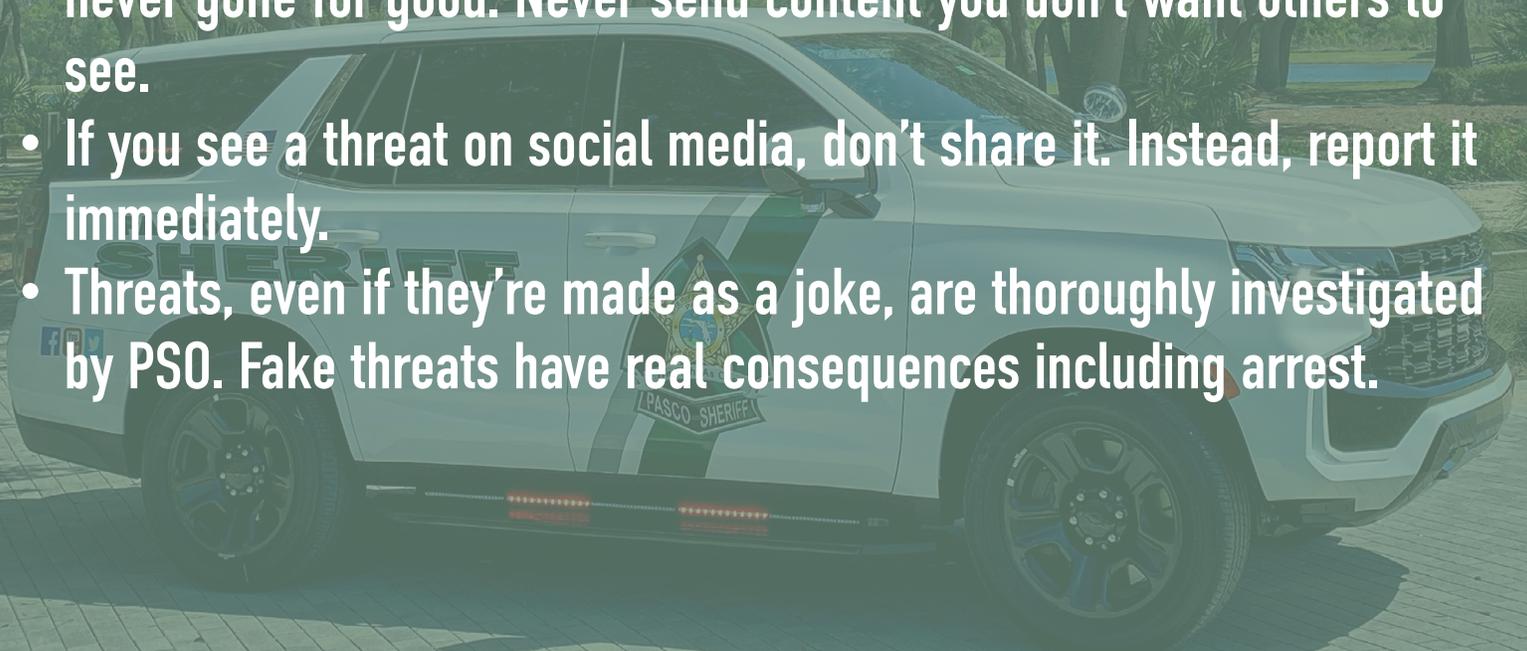
UPDATED JULY 2024



APPS SAFETY TIPS

Keeping children safe includes making sure parents and caregivers know how their children are interacting online.

- Make sure you know who your child talks to online.
- Download apps your child uses to understand the settings and how to use them.
- Urge children not to message people they don't personally know.
- Encourage children to never take conversations to another app, even with friends.
- Urge children not to provide personal information or meet up with those they message online.
- Content on apps with "disappearing" features, such as Snapchat, is never gone for good. Never send content you don't want others to see.
- If you see a threat on social media, don't share it. Instead, report it immediately.
- Threats, even if they're made as a joke, are thoroughly investigated by PSO. Fake threats have real consequences including arrest.





PASCO SHERIFF'S OFFICE

The Juvenile Choice Program
Is **NOW** accepting referrals.

Juvenile Choice Program

The Pasco Sheriff's Office provides a free, in person, 3-hour "Juvenile Choice Program" designed to assist youth, ages 11-17, in understanding the consequences of destructive choices and behaviors.



Educate

Educate youth on the risks, dangers and consequences associated with peer pressure and making destructive decisions.



Equip

Empower youth to become positive, resilient leaders who serve as role models within our community.



Prevent

Helping youth think differently about their choices to prevent them from making destructive decisions.

**CONTACT US
FOR DATES, TIMES, AND
LOCATIONS**

youthprograms@pascosheriff.org



CLASSES OFFERED BY THE PASCO SHERIFF'S OFFICE

To Catch a Thief - Led by a deputy from the Pasco Sheriff's Office, this 1 hour class provides a straightforward explanation of different types of theft and outlines the jury instructions for determining guilt or innocence. The session illustrates how petty theft can escalate into more serious criminal activities, potentially resulting in incarceration. This class aims to raise awareness about the consequences of theft-related behaviors. It is suitable for all age groups.

Get to Know the Law Class - Conducted by a certified law enforcement officer, this 1 hour course is crafted to help young individuals grasp the application of specific laws and the potential repercussions for law violations. The class aims to enhance understanding of legal implications among participants. It is suitable for all ages.

Job Readiness Class - Facilitated by staff from the Pasco Sheriff's Office Youth Diversion Program, this 4 hour course is structured to help participants improve their job seeking skills for employment. Highly interactive and hands-on, this class is specifically intended for high school students.

Life Skills Class - Conducted by staff from the Pasco Sheriff's Office Youth Diversion Program, this 4 hour class aims to support youth in decision-making, goal setting, and applying critical thinking for success in their daily lives. Tailored for middle school students, the course emphasizes skills essential for becoming productive citizens with effective communication abilities.

Peer Pressure and Conflict Resolution - Led by a deputy from the Pasco Sheriff's Office, this 1.5 hour session focuses on managing peer pressure that may result in adverse consequences. The class offers insights and strategies to navigate challenging social situations. It is suitable for all age groups.

CLASSES OFFERED BY LOCAL PROVIDERS

3D - Presented by a Pasco County resident, this 1.5 hour class delves into personal life choices and their consequences. The speaker, who transitioned from a college football scholarship and NFL prospects to federal prison, encourages offenders to reflect on their decisions that may be steering their lives in an adverse direction. This class aims to prompt self-reflection and awareness among participants. It is suitable for all ages.

DCAP-(Drug Court Ambassador Program) - This program, spanning 2.5 hours is hosted at the Court-house, and is led by the Drug Court Judge of Pasco County. A panel, comprising of substance abuse counselors, individuals in recovery, participants from the Pasco County Drug Court Program and community members, addresses youth on the perils of substance abuse. It is suitable for all age groups.

Power of You(th) Class - Offered by MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving), this recommended class is suitable for individuals facing drug or alcohol related charges. This presentation highlights the dangers of illegal substances, their impact on the body and includes a segment on drunk driving. The class is comprehensive and suitable for any high school student.

LOCAL RESOURCES

Admiral Farragut Academy

501 Park Street North
St. Petersburg FL 33710
(727) 384-5500
www.farragut.org

Facility Type: Military, Boarding, or Day School

Clientele: Co-Ed, Day School - Pre-K through 12th grade

Co-Ed: Boarding School - Grades 6th-12th

Criteria: Students who are of good moral character, have an average academic ability and who don't have a history of defiance.

Intake: Application and interview

Fees: Fees apply. Visit website for additional information.

BayCare Behavioral Health

8132 King Helie Blvd.
New Port Richey, FL 34653
(866) 762-1843
www.baycare.org
Children's Treatment Center
(727) 834-3959

Facility Type: Residential inpatient services, outpatient services, assessments and counseling education.

Clientele: Co-Ed, all ages

Criteria: Psychiatric, behavioral, emotional, and substance abuse problems.

Fees: Sliding scale

BayCare- SIPP

(Statewide Inpatient Psychiatric Program)
8132 King Helie Blvd.
New Port Richey, FL 34653
(866) 762-1843

Facility Type: Residential

Clientele: Children and adolescents 12-17 years of age

Criteria: The Crisis Stabilization program provides a safe therapeutic environment for medically stable children and adolescents who require 24-hour nursing care and supervision due to a mental health crisis.

Fees: Varies

Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Hillsborough and Pasco County

711 South Dale Mabry Hwy, Suite 300
Tampa, FL 33609
(813) 769-3600

Facility Type: Mentoring program for school aged children. the program matches children with older youth or adults in the community.

Clientele: Co-Ed, Boys 5-13 years of age, Girls 5-14 years of age

Criteria: Vary based upon resources available
(*Check website for current information*).

Males- Generally have no consistent male presence in their life.

Females- Generally unlimited requirements.

Intake: Client contact, Social Worker

Fees: None

Brookwood, Florida

(Young Women's Residence)
901 7th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, FL 33705
(727) 822-4789
<https://brookwoodflorida.org>

Facility Type: Residential group home for struggling teen girls. Brookwood's Four-Part program includes the following key components: Education, Employment Readiness Training, Independent Living Training, and Mental Health Counseling.

Clientele: Females 13-20 years of age

Criteria: Young women unable to live in their homes for various reasons.

Intake: Client contact /referrals

Fees: Sliding scale based on ability to pay

Children's Home Network

10909 Memorial Highway
Tampa, FL 33615
(813) 855-4435

Facility Type: Residential group home.

Clientele: Co-Ed, ages 12-17 years of age

Criteria: Moderate to severe behavioral and emotional problems, including truancy, runaway or other child management problems. Also, residential treatment program for abused, abandoned or neglected children.

Intake: Referral by juvenile foster care system case manager

Fees: State funded

Chrysalis Health

7821 Dale Mabry Hwy. Suite 164
Tampa, FL 33614
(813) 443-4827
www.chrysalishealth.com

Facility Type: Assessment and treatment services for mental health and substance abuse.

Clientele: Co-Ed, 3 years of age and up

Criteria: Youth and/or families who need support services related to mental illness.

Intake: Client contact or Referrals

Fees: Medicaid or Self-pay

DCF-Alcohol, Drug Abuse and Mental Health

9393 N. Florida Ave. Suite 1000
Tampa, FL 33612
(813) 558-5500
www.myflfamilies.com

Facility Type: Referrals to alcohol, drug abuse, and mental health facilities.

Clientele: Any person having an alcohol, drug, or mental health problem.

Criteria: Alcohol, drug, or mental health problems regardless of ability to pay.

Intake: Client contact

Fees: None

Devereux

8000 Devereux Dr.
Viera, FL 32940
(800) 338-3738, ext. 77130
www.devereux.org

Facility Type: Multi-type facilities offering evidence-based intervention.

Clientele: Co-Ed, ages 5-17/ Grades K-12.

Criteria: Various psychiatric and developmental disorders.

Intake: Client contact or Referrals

Fees: Sliding scale

Disc Village Treatment Center

2967 Natural Bridge Rd.
Woodville, FL 32632
(850) 421-4115
www.discvillage.com

Facility Type: Residential

Clientele: Males 14 -18 years of age

Criteria: Voluntary substance abuse rehabilitation

Intake: Referrals or Applications

Fees: Sliding Scale/ Insurance accepted

Elite DNA Behavioral Health¹

7623 Little Road Suite 300-325B
New Port Richey Florida 34654
(727) 910-5990

Facility Type: Residential

Clientele: They service any age

Criteria: Offer assessments, treatment for adults and children who suffer from depression, anxiety, anger issues, ADHD, grief, sleep issues, parenting issues, behavior problems, obsessive compulsive disorders, post-traumatic stress and other mental health issues.

Fees: Sliding scale/insurance

Fairwinds Treatment Center

1569 South Ft. Harrison
Clearwater, FL 33576
(727) 725-4761
www.fairwindstreatment.com

Facility Type: Residential

Clientele: Co-Ed birth to 17 years of age

Criteria: Provides a residential therapeutic setting for abused, abandoned or neglected children.

Intake: DCF referrals or private admissions

Fees: DCF rates or non-profit sliding scale

Florida Sheriff's Youth Ranch

3180 Enterprise Road East
Safety Harbor, FL 34695
(727) 725-4761
www.youthranches.org

Facility Type: Residential

Clientele: Co-Ed, 8-18 years of age

Criteria: Youth who are experiencing personal problems, family relationship problems, or who lack positive peer communication skills.

Intake: Client contact or Referrals.

Fees: Sliding scale based on legal guardian's income.

Florida Youth Challenge Academy

5629 State Road 16 West Bldg. 3800
Starke, FL 32091
(904) 682-4033
www.floridayouthchallengeacademy.org

Facility Type: 17.5-month National Guard Youth Challenge Residential community-based program with the first 5.5 months residential.

Clientele: Co-Ed, 16-18 years of age

Criteria: The Youth Challenge Program deals with voluntary youth who have dropped out of high school. Youth may have misdemeanor criminal history, but no felony charges or pending charges. Youth must be drug free.

Intake: Application

Fees: None

HOPE Florida

1-800-833-GET-HOPE

Clientele: 18 years and older, must be a US Citizen.

Criteria: They assist in identify barriers to prosperity and will assist with developing long and short term goals to accomplish individual needs.

Fees: None

House of Hope

2036 36th Street
Orlando, FL 32839
(407) 843-8686
www.houseofhopeorlando.org

Facility Type: Residential

Clientele: Co-Ed, 13-17 years of age

Criteria: Mental, emotional, physical and drug abuse problems.

Intake: Client contact, Churches, Court Order, or Probation.

Fees: Sliding Scale

Kin-Ship Services

3850 E. State Road 54
Bradenton, FL 34208
(941) 748-2697
(888) 920-8761
<https://www.kinshipservices.com>

- Facility Type:** Provides assistance with finances, counseling, food, clothing and legal aide.
- Clientele:** Co-Ed, children under the age of 18 years old
- Criteria:** Supports children who are unable to be raised by their parents. Kin-ship assists and supports informal placements where the child is cared for by the grandparents, aunts, uncles and/or other extended family member.
- Intake:** Client contact/referrals
- Fees:** No cost
-

Lifespan Services, Inc.

7702 Massachusetts Ave.
New Port Richey, FL 34653
(727)847-0069

- Facility Type:** Non-Residential Counseling
- Clientele:** Co-Ed, all ages
- Criteria:** Lifespan Services, Inc. is a private fee – for-service organization. Programs are committed to servicing a diverse population with diverse needs. We provide counseling for adults and children.
- Intake:** Client contact
- Fees:** Insurance, sliding scale, private pay
-

NAMI of Pasco County

(National Alliance on Mental Illness)
(727) 992-9653
www.namipasco.org

- Facility Type:** Offers educational classes, support groups, and resources to individuals and families who have mental illness.
- Clientele:** Co-Ed, 18 years or older, caregivers or youth who have mental illness.
- Criteria:** Youth and/or families who need support services related to mental illness.
- Intake:** Client contact/referrals
- Fees:** All classes and support groups are offered free of charge.
-

PACE Center for Girls

7545 Little Rd.
New Port Richey, FL 34654
(727) 849-1901
www.pacecenter.org

- Facility Type:** Non-residential educational and therapeutic program for adolescent girls.
- Clientele:** Females 12-18 years of age
- Criteria:** PACE Pasco's focus is at-risk girls in Pasco County who have experienced minimal success in the public school system and have either dropped out or have been identified as potential dropouts.
- Intake:** Client contact/referrals
- Fees:** None
-

Pasco Kid's First

7344 Little Rd.
New Port Richey, FL 34654
www.pascokidsfirst.org

- Facility Type:** Programs for parenting and child development, along with services for assessing and treating youth affected by various traumatic events.
- Clientele:** Co-Ed, ages 3-17 years of age
- Criteria:** Offer services that help to keep kids safe, overcome the traumatic effects of abuse and neglect and to offer parents concrete support, education and coaching to help them raise their children successfully.
- Intake:** Client contact / referrals
- Fees:** Therapeutic treatment is provided at no cost to the child, victim or parent.
-

Palm Shores Behavioral Health Center

1324 37th Ave East
Bradenton, FL 34208
(941) 792-2222
www.palmshorebhc.com

- Facility Type:** Residential treatment
- Clientele:** Co-Ed, 5-17 years of age
- Criteria:** Open to youth, who are experiencing behavioral, emotional, educational, family and social challenges.
- Intake:** Client contact
- Fees:** Insurance to include Medicaid
-

Premier

11611 Denton Avenue
Hudson Florida 34667
(352) 518-2000

- Facility Type:** They offer quality, affordable and accessible health care, servicing behavioral health, dental services, family medicine, pediatrics, podiatry, special programs, womans health and pharmacy.
- Clientele:** They service any age.
- Fees:** Sliding scale/Insurance
-

RAP House

Runaway Alternative Project
7522 Plathe Rd.
New Port Richey, FL 34653
(727) 835-1777
<https://www.yfainc.org/youth-crisis-shelters>

- Facility Type:** Temporary residential youth shelter that provides a healthy and safe environment in which to flourish: a nurturing, supportive environment free of drugs and alcohol abuse, physical, emotional, and/or sexual abuse.
- Clientele:** Co-Ed, ages 10-17
- Criteria:** Applicants are screened by the facility for eligibility. Decisions are on a case-by-case basis.
- Intake:** Client contact /referral by other agencies
- Fees:** None
-

Rodeheaver Boy's Ranch, Inc.

380 Boy's Ranch Road
Palatka, FL 32177
(386) 328-1281
www.rbr.org

Facility Type:	Residential with a minimum one-year stay.
Clientele:	Males: 8-18 years of age
Criteria:	Residential home for neglected and/or dependent boys who have not been adjudicated delinquent.
Intake:	Client contact, Referrals
Fees:	Varies

Sober Solutions

8056 Old County Road 54
New Port Richey Florida 34653
(727) 372-2010

Facility Type:	Substance abuse and mental health assessments, treatment and services. Parenting Skills and Anger Management Intervention Programs.
Clientele:	All ages

United Way 2-1-1 of Pasco County

(Florida)
17230 Camelot Ct.
Land O'Lakes, FL 34673
Toll-free: 1-877-828-8929
www.unitedwaypasco.org

2-1-1 is an easy to remember telephone number that connects people with important community services and volunteer opportunities.

Hours:	24 hr. /7 days a week
Parent Agency:	United Way of Pasco County
Description:	2-1-1 information and referral for Pasco County, Florida.
Other Information:	Alliance of Information and Referral System (AIRS) accreditation.

Vanguard School

22000 North U.S. Highway 27
Lake Wales, FL 33859
(863) 676-6091
www.vanguardschool.org

Facility Type:	General academics for children with diagnosis.
Clientele:	Co-Ed, Grades 5th-12th
Criteria:	Special needs and various learning-related disorders.
Intake:	Applications
Fees:	Tuition Fees

Youth and Family Advocates

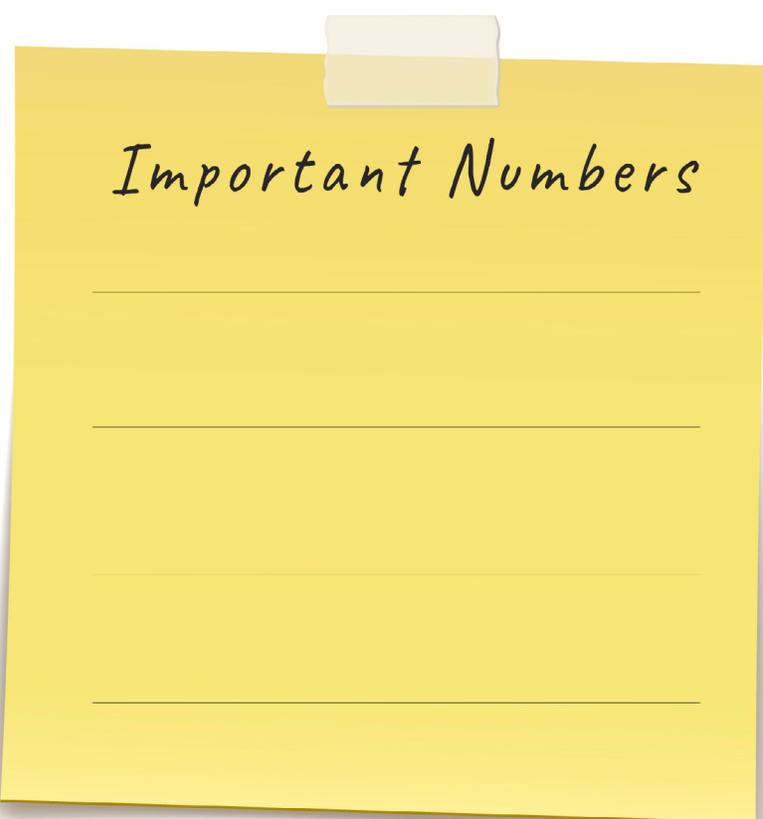
7524 Plathe Rd.
New Port Richey, FL 34653
(727) 836-4166
www.yfainc.org

Facility Type: Non-Residential CINS/FINS Program

Clientele: Co-Ed, ages 6-17

Criteria: Family and child in need of services due to child's unruly behavior, encompassing truancy, runaway behavior and family issues. Children and families who are currently under investigation with the Department of Children and Families or children who are under the supervision of the Department of Juvenile Justice are not eligible.

Fees: Sliding scale fee



Important Numbers

LOCAL RESOURCES

Abuse-Alcohol and Drugs

Al-Anon/Alcohol Family Grp.	(352) 697-0497
Alcoholics Anonymous East	(813) 933-9123
West	(727) 841-0777
Baycare Behavioral Health	East (352) 521-1474 West (727) 841-4430
Narcotics Anonymous	(727) 842-2433
Operation PAR Call Ctr	(888) 727-6398
Substance Abuse Hotline	(800) 662-HELP (4357)
Women's Recovery Center of Tampa Bay	(727) 326-5320

Crisis Hotlines

Florida AIDS/HIV Hotline	(800) 352-2437
Florida Abuse Hotline	(800) 96-ABUSE (800) 962-2873
National Runaway Safeline	(800) RUNAWAY (800) 786-2929
Tampa Bay Taskforce on Human Trafficking	(727) 562-4917
Thursday's Child National	(800) 872-5437
Poison Control	(800) 222-1222
Runaway Alternative Project (RAP House)	(727) 835-1777
Sunrise Domestic Violence/ Sexual Assault	(352) 521-3120
Suicide Hotline	(800) 273-TALK
Youth Advocacy Hotline	(800) 324-5794

Children/Youth/Families

Big Brother/ Big Sisters	(813) 769-3600
Boy Scouts of America	East (813) 872-2691 West (727) 391-3800
Child Help USA- Child Abuse Hotline	(800) 422-4453
Dept. of Children and Families	West (727) 834-3900
Girls Scouts	(800) 881-4475
National Center for Missing and Exploited Children	(800) 843-5678
YMCA	East (813) 780-9622 West (727) 375-9622

Mental Health and Counseling

BayCare	East (352) 521-1474 West (727) 841-4430
Pasco Pediatric Foundation	(727) 863-2266
Safe Schools-Bullying Prevention	(835) 581-8111
Youth and Family Advocates	(727) 835-4166

Housing/Food/Utilities

Access Florida	(866) 762-2237
Habitat for Humanity	(727) 859-9038
Homeless Coalition	(727) 842-8605
Impact Family Ministries	(727) 847-5000
Metropolitan Ministry	(727) 937-3268
Mid-Florida Community Service	(855) 643-3567

Pasco Human Services East (352) 521-5173
 West (727) 834-3297

Salvation Army Service East (352) 521-3126
 Center West (727) 847-6321

Weatherization Assistance (352) 796-1427
 Program

Childcare

Early Learning Coalition (727) 569-1004

Head Start/Early Head East (352) 524-2730
 Start Program West (727) 774-2730
 Central (813) 794-2730

Employment

Connections Job Development (727) 849-3400

Career Central East (813) 377-1300
 West (727) 484-3400

Healthcare

Access Florida (866) 762-2237

Good Samaritan Health Clinic (727) 848-7789

Medicaid (800) 299-4844

Mobile Medical Van (727) 324-7823

Premier Community Health East (352) 518-2000
 West (727) 645-4185

Transportation

Pasco County Public Transit East (352) 521- 4357
 West (727) 645-3222

Shelters

ACTS (Single Males/Veterans) (813) 230-9307

G.W. Harris, Jr Runaway and (800) 786-8614
 Youth Crisis Shelter (863) 595-0220

Jericho Ministries (352) 799-2912

Pasco County Women’s Shelter (727) 861-4840
 (Women and Kids)

R.O.P.E. (727) 869-6426

RAP House - Youth & Family Advocates
 (Youth Ages 10-17) (727) 835-4166

Salvation Army
 • Hospitality House
 (Women and Kids) (813) 226-0053
 Ext. 329
 • “Men and Women” (813) 221-4440

Salvation Army Domestic Violence (727) 856-6498
 Program

STEPS to Recovery (Veterans) (727) 849-9800

Sunrise of Pasco County: Domestic (352) 521-3120
 and Sexual Violence Center

