

STATE OF FLORIDA
SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
Flagler, Putnam, St. Johns & Volusia Counties
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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Volusia County court to offer criminal sentencing alternatives

Daytona Beach – Individuals charged with misdemeanor offenses such as trespass and disorderly conduct will soon have an alternative to paying court costs. People who elect to be on the Sentencing Alternatives for Volusia Enforcement (SAVE) docket will resolve their cases by completing community service hours or participating in specified programs.

“Thousands of people in our county want and need assistance to resolve their payable criminal offenses and ordinance violations,” said Volusia County Court Judge Belle B. Schumann. “Many of these individuals are homeless and do not have the ability to pay \$273 in minimum mandatory court costs associated with each case. The SAVE docket will give participants a chance to successfully close their cases while helping themselves and the community at the same time. It will save taxpayer dollars by reducing arrests on warrants for failure to appear in court.”

Several Volusia County Court judges have been working with the Fighting Against Injustice Towards Harmony organization (F.A.I.T.H.) - a coalition of more than 30 churches and religious groups, Volusia/Flagler Coalition for the Homeless and law enforcement agencies to develop the SAVE docket. The program will be introduced to the community at F.A.I.T.H.’s annual Action Assembly Monday, April 4, at 6:30 p.m., at the Mary McLeod Bethune Performing Arts Center, 698 W. International Speedway Blvd., Daytona Beach.

The SAVE docket is optional and will be available to all individuals charged with a qualifying offense. Cases not included on the SAVE docket include felonies, juvenile delinquency, crimes with a victim, DUI and drug crimes, and offenses committed outside of Volusia County. Those who choose to participate in SAVE will be given a notice that includes a court date, time and location, as well as the phone number for the coordinator. The docket coordinator will work with the defendant and program providers to report progress to the court, and then defendants will receive credit for their efforts in lieu of paying court costs. Organizers hope to begin the SAVE docket in the next few months with a pilot program on the east side of Volusia County.

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