



Florida Department of Juvenile Justice
2737 Centerview Drive
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3100

Visit us on the web at www.djj.state.fl.us!

COST OF CARE



A JOINT RESPONSIBILITY

“Positive parental involvement is crucial. A joint effort between the parents and the State improves the quality of life for our children and provides safer neighborhoods for all of us... Together we can reduce juvenile crime.”



What is Cost of Care?

Under Florida law (F.S. 985), parents, guardians, and non-custodial parents may be charged for the supervision, care, support, and maintenance of their child in secure or home detention, probation supervision, residential commitment, conditional release, non residential commitment and post-commitment probation.

How much is Cost of Care?

Cost of Care fees will not exceed \$5 per day for a child in custody (secure detention or residential commitment) or \$1 per day for a child under the supervision of the Department (home detention, probation supervision, conditional release, non residential commitment or post-commitment probation). Cost of Care fees can be reduced or waived only by the Court.

What is the payment process for Cost of Care?

A bill will be sent each month indicating the amount charged, the dates the child was admitted to and released from the program, or was under supervision, and the total unpaid balance due.

The amount due is payable upon receipt of the bill.

Make payments by check or money order payable to:

Department of Juvenile Justice
Bureau of Finance and Accounting
Cost of Care Recovery Unit
P. O. Box 5617
Tallahassee, FL 32314-5617

If you believe the Cost of Care fee will present a financial hardship, it is your responsibility to apply for a reduction or waiver. A financial statement, available from your child's Juvenile Probation Officer or the Juvenile Detention Center, must be completed and filed with the Clerk of Court in your county. Keep in mind that the reduction or waiver must be ordered by the Court, and does not automatically occur upon the completion of the financial statement.

You will not be required to pay the fees if your child has been acquitted, or if the charges against your child have been dismissed.

Dependency Cases

Regardless of where the child resides, unless parental rights have been terminated by the Court, the child's parents are responsible for Cost of Care. Parents who are separated but share custody will be jointly responsible unless otherwise ordered by the Court. Foster parents are not billed.

What if I choose not to pay?

In accordance with F.S. 985-2311(9), "The Department may employ a collection agency for the purpose of receiving, collecting, and managing the payment of any fees ordered pursuant to this section that have gone delinquent or unpaid for 90 days or more."

Questions?

All questions regarding Cost of Care should be directed to your child's Juvenile Probation Officer.
