



Quality of Life Issues in Your Community — Community-Oriented Policing Unit / Article #10

Just the Facts...About The Pasco County Curfew Ordinance

By: Deputy Troy Ferguson

Did you know that Pasco County has a curfew ordinance for minors? A number of citizens have recently requested information about curfew ordinance procedures and enforcement. This month's newsletter will answer some of the most frequently asked questions about the curfew ordinance.

Pasco County Curfew Ordinance. # 97-04

Why create a curfew ordinance in Pasco?

The curfew ordinance was adopted on March 04, 1997. The primary goal of this ordinance is to protect our young people. The ordinance is used as a tool to correct situations where covered juveniles are unsupervised and creating a disturbance in the community. It can also be a useful tool in situations where a covered juvenile is suspected of committing, or preparing to commit, a criminal offense. Most importantly, the curfew ordinance is used to protect juveniles who are in danger of becoming the victims of crimes.

What age group does the curfew apply to?

A minor, for the purposes of this ordinance, means anyone under the age of 18 (eighteen).

What acts are prohibited by the ordinance?

1. The curfew ordinance prohibits minors from being in a public place or establishment between the hours of **11:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m.** of the following day, **Sunday-Thursday.**
2. The curfew ordinance prohibits minors from being in a public place or establishment between the hours of **12:01 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. on Fridays and Saturdays** (and on legal holidays).
3. A minor who has been expelled or suspended from school may not **be or remain in a public place, establishment, or within 1000 feet of a school** between the hours of **9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. on any school day.**

What do the terms "public place" and "establishment" mean for the purposes of this ordinance?

1. "**Public Place**" means **any place** where the public has access, including, but not limited to, streets, highways, parks, and the common areas of schools, apartment houses, hospitals, office parks, transportation facilities, and shops.
2. "**Establishment**" means **any** privately owned business to which the public is invited, including, but not limited to, a place of amusement or a place of entertainment.

Are there exemptions to the ordinance?

Yes, these exemptions apply when the minor is:

1. Accompanied by a parent, or other adult authorized by the minor's parent to have custody of the minor.
2. Involved in an emergency or engaged, with parental permission, on an emergency errand.