


POLICY 501.2	ALTERNATIVES TO ARREST	
	Revised: 2/98, 7/99, 11/01, 03/10	Related Policies: 119.3, 503, 508, 511, 509
	CFA Standards: 2.04	REVIEWED: 12/01, 10/07, 03/10

A. POLICY

It is the policy of the Fort Lauderdale Police Department, that when practical and prudent to do so, an alternative to a physical arrest shall be used.

B. ALTERNATIVES

In areas not specifically covered by a policy or state statute, officers shall use discretion when considering an arrest. Common sense and reasonableness shall prevail. Discretion shall be the responsibility of the individual officer. With this responsibility comes equal accountability. The following alternatives may be considered in lieu of physical arrests.

1. Notice to Appear (see Policy 503);
2. Baker Act (Chapter 394, Fla. Stat.) (see Policy 508);
3. Marchman Alcohol and Other Drug Services Act (Chapter 397 Fla. Stat.) (see policy 509);
4. Utilization of Alternative Programs;

The Communications Center maintains a list of social services and other help organizations that are available as alternatives to arrest. Some of these organizations are:

 - a. Alcoholics Anonymous
 - b. BEDS hotline (homeless)
 - c. Broward Addiction Recovery Center (BARC)
 - d. Covenant House (Teen runaways)
 - e. Henderson Clinic (Mental Health)
 - f. Homeless Assistance Center (see Policy 511)
 - g. Narcotics Anonymous
 - h. Salvation Army
 - i. Senior Services (info and referral for persons over 60)
 - j. Women in Distress (women and children)

- k. Any other social services provider.
5. Verbal Warnings
- a. Verbal warnings may be issued for minor violations when exercising officer discretion. Such warnings should be documented in a police report when the incident requires the completion of a report.
 - b. Examples of when verbal warnings may be issued include but are not limited to:
 - (1). When conditions dictate priorities.
 - (2). When an officer believes that a warning may be more effective than intervention by the criminal justice system.
 - c. Prior to releasing a subject with a verbal warning, in any case where response to resistance is used by an officer, the officer shall contact a supervisor. The supervisor shall make a determination as to whether a verbal warning is appropriate. Refer to Policy 119.3, Response to Resistance - Reporting, Evaluation and Investigation, paragraph B, Reporting Method.
 - d. Verbal Warnings shall not be issued for:
 - (1). Felony violations.
 - (2). Misdemeanor violations when it is reasonable to believe that continued freedom of the violator would result in a breach of the peace or a more serious crime.
 - (3). Persons with active warrants.