



Volunteer Requirements

- * *Must be at least 21 years of age. All age groups are welcome and needed!*
- * *Must possess a High School Diploma or GED.*
- * *Must have no criminal record.*
- * *Must have transportation and a valid South Carolina driver's license.*
- * *Must complete the required 21-hour arbitrator training course.*

For additional information to volunteer, please visit <http://florenceco.org> and select the Solicitor tab under Elected Offices or call our office.

Early Crime Prevention Program

Physical Address

201 West Evans Street
Florence, South Carolina 29501

Mailing Address

County Complex, Room 1101
Office of Solicitor
Twelfth Judicial Circuit/ECPP
180 North Irby Street, MSC-Q
Florence, South Carolina 29501

Office Phone: (843) 292-1630
Fax: (843) 292-7430
Robin Hewitt
Program Director



OFFICE OF SOLICITOR
12TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

EARLY CRIME PREVENTION PROGRAM



FLORENCE AND MARION
COUNTIES

E.L. Clements, III, Solicitor



What is Early Crime Prevention?

Early Crime Prevention is a juvenile diversion program designed to divert children below the age of 12 who are 1st time, non-violent/non-status offenders out of the Family Court System. The hearings are conducted by trained community volunteers in an informal arbitration setting.

The main goal of the program is to educate and reach out to the juvenile to try and prevent any further involvement with the Juvenile Justice System.

How Does It Work?

The Early Crime Prevention Program hearing is not conducted as a formal court hearing. This is an informal process where strict rules of evidence do not apply.

- The Arbitrator will resolve the case through an arbitration process where all parties that are involved in the case are present. The child, his or her parent(s), the victim, and the law enforcement officer are given the opportunity to express themselves on the issues of whether the child has violated the law, and if so, what sanctions are appropriate under the circumstances and to help the child understand the ramification and consequences of his/her actions. The Arbitrator will be able to provide any necessary community resources that are determined to assist the child and his/her parents.
- A dispositional agreement is written with sanctions such as; apology letters, home restriction, acts of kindness, or any other action the parent and Arbitrator agree is appropriate. Also, there is a \$50.00 fine imposed, where the child must work and earn money to pay back the community.
- Once completed, the case is closed with no juvenile record being established. If the juvenile fails to complete, the case is sent back to the Department of Juvenile Justice for further action.

Goals of Early Crime Prevention

Program

- To provide a system by which children who commit certain offenses may be dealt with in a speedy and informal manner at the community level.
- To enable trained citizens, acting as Arbitrators, to objectively evaluate the child and circumstances in order to determine the most appropriate disposition considering the child, victim and the community.
- To provide an early intervention process for younger children in hopes of preventing further involvement with the Juvenile Justice System and Family Court.