

**IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, FRANKLIN COUNTY, OHIO
DIVISION OF DOMESTIC RELATIONS
JUVENILE BRANCH**

IN THE MATTER OF: _____

CASE NO: _____ DATE: _____

SAFE HARBOR REFERRAL

Several indicators suggest your client may benefit from participating in the Empowerment Program. The Safe Harbor statute, 2152.021(F), was passed to assist juveniles in overcoming their exploitation and trauma rather than punishing them as an unruly or delinquent child.

If your client is charged with solicitation, loitering to solicit, or prostitution, your client **automatically qualifies** for diversion under the statute. If your client is charged with another offense, but there is reason to believe that the juvenile is a victim of human trafficking, and the charge is related to his/her victimization, then the juvenile qualifies for Safe Harbor.

1. Because of the indicators, this case is being transferred to Magistrate Sanchez's docket. You must take this form to Amy Gerstmeyer on the 4th floor. Amy may refer your client to the Children's Advocacy Center for an interview.
2. If counsel files a motion requesting Safe Harbor Magistrate Sanchez will hold a hearing prior to adjudication to determine if the charge(s) will be held in abeyance. Motion templates are available in Magistrate Sanchez's courtroom.
3. If Safe Harbor is granted the complaint will be held in abeyance pending the juvenile's completion of a diversion program.
4. The Court will appoint a guardian ad litem for the juvenile.
5. If the complaint is held in abeyance Care Coordination, rather than probation, will monitor the progress of the participating juvenile. If your client is currently on probation and is identified as a candidate for the Empowerment Program, any violations that have been filed can also be held in abeyance.
6. The Empowerment Program affords the juvenile the opportunity to have the complaint dismissed and the charge expunged.
7. The program requires the juvenile present him/herself every 3rd Thursday of every month at 1:30 p.m. for approximately 90 days to monitor their progress. The court can modify this requirement if it is in the best interest of the child.

Please discuss this option with your client and advise Magistrate Sanchez at the next 9:00 a.m. hearing.