ORLANDO POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICY AND PROCEDURE
1104.0, CITIZEN DISPUTE SETTLEMENT PROGRAM

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ACCREDITATION CHAPTERS:	2
CHIEF OF POLICE:	ORLANDO ROLON

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POLICY: Members of the Orlando Police Department shall evaluate minor criminal conduct, civil disputes, and recommend those cases to the Citizen Dispute Settlement Program when they meet the criteria set forth by the Department.

PROCEDURES:

1. CITIZEN DISPUTE SETTLEMENT PROGRAM (CDSP)

The Citizen Dispute Settlement Program is designed to be a pre-court diversion program administered by the Orange County Bar Association. It is intended to offer a viable alternative to arrest in situations involving minor criminal conduct between disputing parties, or to offer an alternate avenue to disputants in divorce-related problems. Any member of the Orlando Police Department, that handles citizen complaints, may refer disputants to CDSP in accordance with this directive.

2. TYPES OF CASES REFERRED TO CDSP

2.1   TYPES OF CASES
The following cases may be considered for referral to CDSP:

   a.   Simple assault.
   b.   Menacing threats.
   c.   Harassment.
   d.   Trespass.
   e.   Disorderly Conduct.
   f.   Property Damage (minor).
   g.   Family and neighbor threats.
   h.   Animal Control Ordinance Violations.
   i.   Consumer Disputes.
   j.   Landlord-Tenant Disputes.
   k.   Visitation Problems in Past Judgment Matters.
   l.   Problems regarding payments of Child Support in any past Judgment Matter.
   m.   Problems regarding payment of alimony in any past Judgment Matter.
   n.   Any shared parental responsibility problem, including which parent should have the primary physical residency of the child or children
   o.   Any matter or problem regarding the simplified procedure by which dissolution of marriage can be obtained under the rule of civil procedure
   p.   Any temporary matters in which the parties have a problem
   q.   Any other matter that parties mutually agree to submit to mediation

2.2   CONSIDERATIONS BEFORE REFERRALS

The intent of the CDSP is to focus on selected misdemeanor and civil disputes. Prior to recommending the program to disputing parties, consideration must be given to the following:

   a.   The nature of the dispute.
   b.   The lack of criminal intent or pattern.
   c.   The willingness of the parties to settle.
   d.   The officer feels the situation has cooled to a point there will be no immediate reoccurrence of the dispute.

3. CDSP REFERRAL

3.1   OBLIGATION

The Citizen Dispute Settlement Program is in no way binding on the disputing parties, the responding member or the Orlando Police Department. The recommendation of CDSP will be done solely at the discretion of the responding member.

3.2   REFERRAL AND INCIDENT REPORT

If an event occurs that requires an Incident Report to be completed and the responding member feels the case might better be handled by CDSP, the member should do the following:

   a.   Complete the Incident Report and annotate in the narrative that the disputants have been referred to CDSP.
   b.   Give both disputants a referral card from CDSP with the report number.
   c.   Tell the disputants they must still call Criminal Intake within seven (7) days regardless of whether they go to CDSP or not. If they do not call Criminal Intake within seven (7) days their case will be inactivated.

3.3   CDSP REFERRAL WITH NO REPORT

If an event occurs that does not require an Incident Report and the responding member feels the disputants could resolve their problems through CDSP, the member need only give the disputants the CDSP referral card or the phone number and address of CDSP.

4. DISPOSITION OF CDSP CASES

If a report is made in a case that is referred to CDSP, CDSP will notify the Orlando Police Department and the referring officer of the CDSP disposition.

1104.0 P&P