



OFFICE OF THE STATE ATTORNEY

FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
IN AND FOR PALM BEACH COUNTY



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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STATE ATTORNEY ARONBERG'S COMMENTS ON RECENT EVENTS RELATING TO THE FIRST TIME DUI OFFENDER PROGRAM

WEST PALM BEACH -- Dave Aronberg, State Attorney for Palm Beach County, issued the following statement today on the Office's First Time DUI Offender Program:

"I am not permitted to discuss pending cases. I want to provide information, however, on our First Time DUI Offender Program, which has been a huge success since its inception in 2013. More than 2,100 defendants have entered the program, and very few have committed a DUI again.

In addition to its success rate, our Program is truly unique in that it is the only of its kind endorsed by Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD).

The Program is an important effort to make our community safer by ensuring that drivers prosecuted for first-time DUIs (for both alcohol and drug use) have their underlying substance abuse issues addressed. Defendants accept responsibility for their actions, our streets are safer, and taxpayers benefit from fewer trials and lower costs to our criminal justice system.

In situations where a first time DUI offender meets the conditions of entering the Program, the defendant is required to plead guilty at arraignment to Reckless Driving. The defendant will have the adjudication withheld upon completion of a rigorous set of requirements, such as DUI school, victim impact panels, and 12 months of probation, which includes a ban on alcohol and drug possession and consumption.

The First Time DUI Offender Program has two tiers: Tier 1 for those whose blood alcohol level registers below a .15, and Tier 2 (which

provides for more extensive conditions) for those who refuse to submit to a breath test or whose blood alcohol level registers between .15 and .20. Anyone whose blood alcohol level exceeds .20 is ineligible for the Program.”

State Attorney Aronberg has dedicated much of his career to addressing the national addiction epidemic. In 2001, he led the Florida Attorney General’s investigation into the marketing practices of Purdue Pharma, the manufacturer of OxyContin. Later, he became the “Drug Czar” for the Florida Attorney General, where he worked to close down illicit prescription drug “pill mills.” As State Attorney for Palm Beach County since 2012, Aronberg has been a leader in the fight against opioid abuse, as he heads a task force that has made 30 arrests since October 2016 for fraud and abuse in the drug recovery industry. His task force has spearheaded changes in State law to clean up the State’s rehab industry and protect from exploitation the vulnerable class of people with substance use disorder.

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