



SafeNite Curfew Program Frequently Asked Questions

Established in 1994, the SafeNite Curfew Program was the result of a series of meetings between city and community stakeholders to discuss strategies for addressing youth violence. The SafeNite Curfew Program model includes both active enforcement and a diversion component that offers youth and families an alternate option to appearing in court. The program is intended to be a safety net that helps connect youth/families in need to community-based services utilizing a restorative rather than punitive approach.

What are the curfew hours in Denver?

11pm – 5am: Sunday - Thursday

12am – 5am: Friday and Saturday

Is curfew enforced year-round?

Yes. Denver's curfew ordinance is enforced year-round. The SafeNite Curfew Program operates on Fridays and Saturdays during the months of April – September.

Are there any exceptions to the curfew ordinance that permits a youth under 17 to be in public during curfew hours?

Yes. There are a few scenarios in which a youth under 18 can be in public during curfew hours. The exceptions are:

- *Youth is with a parent/guardian*
- *Youth is engaged in an employment activity or is going to work or home from work without stopping*
- *Youth is with a person over the age of 18 and this person has written permission from the youth's parent for the youth to be out with this person*
- *Youth is in a vehicle being used for interstate travel*
- *Youth is responding to an emergency at the direction of a parent/guardian*

If a youth is cited for curfew, are they placed into juvenile detention?

No. A youth cannot be placed into juvenile detention for any municipal citation including curfew.

What are the goals of the SafeNite Curfew Program?

There are three main goals of the SafeNite Curfew Program which include keeping young people safe and out of harm's way, connecting youth and their families to resources and services when necessary and not criminalizing non-criminal behavior.

What happens when a youth is picked up during the SafeNite Curfew Program?

They are transported by van to the Juvenile Services Center located at 303 West Colfax, and their parent/guardian is contacted to pick them up. SafeNite Curfew Program staff speak with the young person and their guardian and if they are eligible, offer diversion as an alternative to appearing in court.

Are all youth eligible for diversion in lieu of appearing in court?

No. Young people with an open misdemeanor or felony cases who are currently under the supervision of a pretrial release program or probation are not eligible for the diversion program. In 2018, 77 percent of 374 youth brought in to the SafeNite Program were eligible for diversion.

What does participating in the diversion program require?

Diversion requirements are tailored to meet the needs of each individual youth/family that come through the program. Based on the results of an assessment, diversion requirements can be minimal tasks such as enrolling in a pro-social activity to more intensive interventions such as individual or family counseling.

Diversion is voluntary and a youth can opt out at any time, however, if they choose to opt out, they must appear in court. If the youth completes the diversion program, the case is dismissed without a plea and the case is automatically expunged from the youths' record within 42 days. In 2018, 89 percent of the youth who accepted diversion successfully completed the program.

Are there any fees for the diversion program?

There is no cost to enroll in diversion, however, there may be a small cost for services assigned under the diversion requirements. Any associated diversion costs are less than the court fees or fines that are imposed for a curfew violation.

Does the curfew ordinance only apply to young people who live in Denver?

No. Any youth between the ages of 10-17 who is contacted by law enforcement during curfew hours can be cited for a Denver curfew violation. In 2018, 26 percent of youth brought in to the SafeNite Program lived outside of Denver.

Is there a statewide curfew law or is it city by city?

No. There is not a state curfew law so it is up to each city to decide whether to enforce curfew. Aurora, Boulder, Centennial, Lakewood and Littleton are just a few cities surrounding Denver that also have an established curfew ordinance.

Most juvenile related crime occurs during after school hours so why enforce curfew?

While the majority of juvenile related crime occurs outside of curfew hours, there is still a significant number of juveniles contacted by law enforcement as either a suspect or victim in a crime during curfew hours.

In 2018, 82 juveniles were identified as victims of a crime during the same timeframe with sexual assault, aggravated assault and robbery being the top three crimes committed against juvenile victims. Additionally, 134 juveniles were arrested for serious crimes during the SafeNite Curfew Program period with burglary, robbery and motor vehicle theft being the top three crimes.