

Harris County District Attorney's Office

SEPTEMBER 16, 2020

BAKER INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC POLICY

HCDAO Mission

The Harris County District Attorney's Office is dedicated to making our community safer through evidence-based prosecution and equal justice for all. This means guaranteeing a fair process to obtain a just result for the victim, the accused and the community in every case.



Changing Drug Enforcement & Prosecution Policies

Trace Cases

Marijuana

RIC Court

Make it Right



Misdemeanor Marijuana Diversion Program

MMDP is a precharge program offered by the Harris County District Attorney's Office to Offenders who would otherwise be arrested and charged with possession of misdemeanor marijuana, regardless of criminal history.

It is a voluntary program which gives the Offender an opportunity to avoid arrest, jail booking, and the filing of a criminal charge – no record.

The program saves \$18 million annually in prosecutorial and law enforcement budgets.

Trace Cases

We stopped prosecuting trace cases

These are cases in which cops find drug residue left on pipes or other paraphernalia, for example, or crumbs of cocaine so small that the substance cannot be formally tested, let alone used to get high.

This policy helps us prioritize crimes that impact public safety.

RIC Court

Through pretrial interventions and/or deferred adjudication, Responsive Interventions for Change (RIC) prosecutors give people accused of possessing up to 4 grams of controlled substances a second chance to get drug treatment in the community or in a treatment facility, instead of sending them to jail.

The RIC approach to drug possession has significantly reduced state jail recidivism, from an approximate 60% re-arrest rate to an approximate 26% re-arrest rate.

Make it Right



MAKE IT RIGHT!

Make It Right will be online this fall, and you can still get legal assistance with clearing your eligible criminal record

Services go live -

September 26-30, 2020

Learn more at MakeItRightHouston.com

- Resolve your old warrants
- Get free legal assistance with expunctions and non-disclosure of eligible criminal records
- Rejoin the workforce with our 2nd Chance Job Fair

Read more and sign up for email reminders at MakeItRightHouston.com

