

OUR MISSION

“Offering court-involved children faced with challenging family circumstances an opportunity to actively participate in cases and interact with family in a friendly, more relaxed environment through the use of loving therapy dogs”



For additional information:

CARING CANINES
Palm Beach County Courthouse
205 North Dixie Highway
Juvenile Wing
West Palm Beach, FL 33401

Phone: (561) 355-6586
Fax: (561) 355-7914

15th Judicial Circuit's

Caring



Canines

What Is *Caring Canines*?



This program offers trained, therapeutic dogs to children attending Court to provide comfort to children in an attempt to overcome the awkwardness and anxiety of being in Court. The dogs and their handlers are present in various dependency court hearings as well as in the child-friendly waiting room to create a more enjoyable experience for children.

Why the Program Is Important

Coming to Court can be a overwhelming and scary event, especially for children. This program can assist by offering the following:

- Comfort and solace to children during potentially stressful court experiences
- A pleasurable focal point for separated children, parents, and siblings to overcome the anxiety of meeting in the courthouse
- Courage to every child allowing them to fully participate in their court appearances
- Something to look forward to when coming to Court

About the Dogs and Handlers

The first therapy dog used in this program was Orlaith and her handler Susan, a practicing attorney. All of the dogs and handlers are **volunteers** - this program would not be possible without their support and dedication.

There are various breeds of dogs participating in the program, including but not limited to: golden retriever, boxer, lab, poodle, etc.



Volunteer dogs and handlers with Judge Alvarez and Magistrate Fanelli