



BEXAR COUNTY CITE & RELEASE

What is cite & release?

Starting in June 2019, in most circumstances, Bexar County and San Antonio law enforcement officials will issue a citation to individuals accused of certain low-level, non-violent criminal offenses, instead of making an arrest.

How does cite & release work?

If you are stopped for one of the offenses covered by the cite and release policy, the officer may issue you a citation instead of arresting you. Once you get your citation, you are free to leave but you will need to report to the Bexar County Re-Entry Center within 30 days of your citation. The Re-Entry Center will be open on Tuesdays and Thursdays and is located at 222 South Comal.

When you go to the Re-Entry Center, you will meet with a prosecutor who will review your charges. The prosecutor decides if you qualify for a diversion program such as classes or community service. The diversion program may also have an associated fee.

CITE & RELEASE: STEP BY STEP

PERSON CONTACTED BY OFFICER

- Officer confirms if offenses qualify for a cite & release.
- Officer determines whether to make a custodial arrest or cite based on circumstances and past record.
- If cited, you will need to report to the Re-Entry Center within 30 days.

PERSON REPORTS TO COUNTY

- Cited individual reports to Bexar County Re-Entry Center within 30 days.
- Prosecutor reviews offense(s) committed.
- Prosecutor assigns individual to appropriate programs or services.

PERSON ENROLLS IN ASSIGNED PROGRAM

- Cited individual enrolls in assigned program.
- County monitors and ensures completion within 60 days.

PERSON COMPLETES PROGRAM

- County documents program completion.
- County maintains record of cite & release participants.
- Offenses do not appear on criminal record.

WHICH OFFENSES ARE INCLUDED IN CITE & RELEASE?

Certain Class A & B Misdemeanors

- Misdemeanor possession of up to four ounces of marijuana
- Criminal mischief, with damage up to \$750
- Theft of up to \$750 in property
- Theft of up to \$750 in services
- Contraband in a correctional facility
- Driving while license invalid

What if I don't qualify for a diversion program?

If you do not qualify for a diversion program, the District Attorney's office will file the charge(s) against you with the Bexar County Court. You will be scheduled for hearing(s) with the court, where you will have the opportunity to defend yourself.

What happens if I don't show up at the Re-Entry Center within 30 days of my citation?

If you do not report, the DA's Office will mail you a notification to remind you. If you still don't show up, a criminal case could be filed and you could be arrested.

If I do qualify, what happens once I complete the diversion program?

If you complete the requirements within the 60 days allotted, the charge(s) will not appear on your record.

What if I am innocent and want to fight my charge(s)?

If you believe you are innocent and would rather fight your charge(s), you may decline to participate in the diversion program, and the prosecutors will file your charge(s) with the court. You will be scheduled for hearing(s) with the court, where you will have the opportunity to defend yourself.

What if an officer targeted me solely because of my race, religion, sexuality, or other characteristic?

Ask the arresting officer for their name and badge number and ask them to explain why they stopped you. Then, submit a formal complaint to the arresting agency (SAPD or Bexar County Sheriff's Office) directly. You may also contact your city council member, and if you can, talk to a defense attorney. Also consider sending an email with your case information to SA.stands1@gmail.com, so we can determine if we may advocate on your behalf.

How did cite & release happen?

This policy is the result of the impactful work of SA Stands, an effective, collaborative coalition of 26 community groups in San Antonio, fighting for inclusive policies that strengthen our city.

GET INVOLVED. STAY INFORMED.

Please join us in our fight for a safer and more just community for ALL!

Visit: [SA Stands on Facebook](#)
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