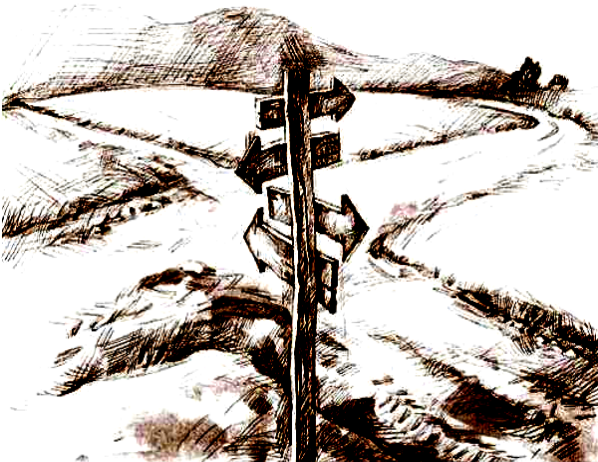


JEFFERSON COUNTY

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
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JEFFERSON COUNTY
PINS Diversion Unit

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JEFFERSON
COUNTY



PINS
DIVERSION
PROGRAM



On April 1, 2005, New York State was mandated to provide diversion services for youth at risk of becoming the subject of a Person In Need of Supervision (PINS) petition and their families. Diversion services are accessed in an effort to prevent the filing of a PINS petition as well as to prevent possible out of home placement for a child.

A **potential Person In Need of Supervision (PINS)** is defined as a person under the age of 18 whom:

- 1.) Does not attend school in accordance with the provisions of Part One of Article 65 of the New York State Education Law;
- 2.) Demonstrates a pattern of behavior that is incorrigible, ungovernable or habitually disobedient and beyond the lawful control of parent, or other person legally responsible for said child's care, or other lawful authority;
- 3.) Violates Section 221.05 of the New York State Penal Law (unlawful possession of marijuana).

What are PINS Diversion Services?

PINS Diversion Services are any activities or services provided by the Department, or an agency under contract with the Department, to divert a youth from a PINS petition and/ or placement in foster care or non-secure detention.

The Department contracts Diversion services to:
The Children's Home of Jefferson County (CHJC)
The House of the Good Shepherd (HGS)
The Youth Advocate Program (YAP)

Diversion services include casework counseling, information and referral, and a variety of contracted services such as mental health counseling, substance abuse treatment, parenting education and mentoring services. Diversion Services are open ended. They may continue as long as the youth is benefitting from the service.

The Department of Social Services PINS Diversion Unit will work with the family in an effort to provide services to the child and the family within the community. The PINS Diversion Team will educate parents on the services available in Jefferson County and teach them how to access those services, in an attempt to "empower" the parent(s) by assisting them with consistent and structured parenting techniques within their home.

Referral process

To make a referral for PINS Diversion Services, parents, guardians or agencies involved with the youth should call the Department of Social Services PINS Diversion Unit at (315) 785-3337.

School officials may use the designated school referral form. It is important to provide any and all documentation regarding the efforts that have been attempted to address the concerns outlined in the referral.

When will a PINS petition be filed with Jefferson County Family Court?

All formal and informal diversion services must be exhausted before a PINS petition can be filed with Family Court. There is no time limit on how long the PINS Diversion Team will work with each family and child, in an effort to improve the child's behaviors, prior to a PINS petition being filed. PINS petitions will only be filed by the Jefferson County Department of Social Services PINS Diversion Unit.

PINS petitions will only be filed:

- 1.) Once all efforts have been exhausted by the child, family, school district, designated service providers and The Department of Social Services PINS Diversion Unit; or
- 2.) If it is deemed that further services will not be beneficial to the child and family due to lack of cooperation/follow through by parent and/or child or blatant refusal to cooperate.

