

PINS Diversion is an open-ended program based upon the family's cooperation and need for ongoing services. The focus is on helping families to help themselves through services that have the potential to change the youth's behavior, improve parenting techniques and establish links between community resources. It began in 1988 and serves many families each year. On July 1, 2002, PINS was expanded by law to include 16 and 17 year old youth. On April 1, 2005, the law was changed to significantly restrict access of PINS complaints to Family Court in order to reduce placements of PINS youth out of the home. No person may immediately access Family Court on a PINS matter **unless the child has run away from home and is still missing.** Unless there is a warrant, the police must return the runaway to their home unless they deem it unsafe to do so. The family would then contact The Department of Social Services for further information. Also, The Department of Social Services is authorized to terminate parent PINS complaints, preventing the complaint from proceeding to Family Court, if the parents do not cooperate with the services recommended in the treatment plan.

**Fee:**

There is no fee charged to the youth or the family for services provided by the PINS Diversion Program. However, some referral agencies may charge a fee for service. Insurance is utilized when available.

**Washington County DSS:**

- Tammy DeLorme, Commissioner
- Karen Baker, Director of Children Services
- Tracy Hudson, Preventive & Placement Supervisor
- Jason Ward, Senior Caseworker  
518-746-2339
- Kristen Entwistle, PINS Diversion Coordinator  
518-746-2304

**Washington County Youth Bureau:**

- Mike Gray, Director

**Designated Assessment Team (DAS)**

- PINS Diversion Team Members
  - Jackie Jackson,  
Coordinated Children Services Initiative  
Glens Falls Hospital
  - Lucy D'Angelico  
Washington County Youth Bureau
- Jackie Foster, CASAC,  
Baywood Center
- Amy Alfonso,  
Council for Prevention

**Washington County  
Department of Social Services**

**PINS\* Diversion Program  
\*Person In Need of Supervision**

**Building 'B', Municipal Center  
383 Broadway  
Fort Edward, NY 12828**



**A multi-agency program  
combining the resources of  
Washington County:**

**Department of Social Services  
Youth Bureau  
Warren/Washington Counties  
Community Mental Health**

## Who is a Person In Need of Supervision?

A PINS is someone under the age of 18 who:

- Frequently Truant
- Pattern of Poor Conduct at School or in the Community
- Pattern of Severe Acting Out at Home
- Runaway Behavior
- Substance Abuse Issues including Possession of Marijuana

\* School PINS may only be referred between September 1st - May 1st \*

## How Long Can a Case Remain Open?

PINS is an open-ended program, with no predetermined time limit. The case will remain open until the child and family service needs are met or it is determined that no further interventions would benefit that child and family. The PINS process must attempt to improve the situation through direct interventions or referral for services, exhausting all resources, before the case is closed or is able to be referred for petition.

## Purpose

The Department of Social Services staff will review the youth's legal, family and social histories as well as their attitudes and skills. A treatment plan will be developed with the goal of resolving the underlying problems that led to the complaint. The purpose of this program is not to threaten or scare nor is it to seek placement of the youth in detention or out of the home. In order to proceed with PINS, parents agree to cooperate with the program which includes but may not be limited to: payment for services, arranging for transportation to and from services, participation of the parents in targeted services when scheduled, attending regular Social Service and school meetings, and providing positive attention and a supportive environment for the youth to succeed.

## How to File a PINS Complaint

- Complete a PINS application and return it to The Department of Social Services. An initial appointment will usually be set up within two weeks of the receipt of referral.'
- For Parent Referrals, a referral to family mediation to assess the role of family dynamics is made through Mediation Matters and is **required**.
- Obtain copies of requested documents such as report cards, school disciplinary letters, birth certificates, and insurance cards and provide them to The Department of Social Services.
- Maintain written record of dates and events of difficulties that occur with the youth.

Please remember– If any person or property is at risk of harm (including the youth threatening to harm themselves), if the youth is threatening to runaway, or a crime has or is about to occur **call the police first.**