

WE ARE HERE SO YOU CAN...

ASK questions ,

LEARN more about what's in your community, and more...

Our screening and assessment process is the start of gathering information about your child and family. Research has shown that without help status offenders often progress to more severe behaviors. Early intervention, like with FINS, has been shown to be more effective in preventing future at risk and delinquent behaviors.

Courts to Communities: The Right Response to...Status Offenses, Vera Institute of Justice, December 2013.

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

DEPT. OF CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES
(Child Welfare, Food Stamps, Child Support Enforcement, etc.)
(855) 452-5437 or **(504) 599-1700**

METROPOLITAN CRISIS RESPONSE TEAM
(504) 826-2675

DAUGHTERS OF CHARITY HEALTH SERVICES
(504) 207-3060

Odyssey House Adolescent Academy
Substance Abuse
(504) 324-8288

ABSENCES ADD UP CAMPAIGN
<http://absencesaddup.org/>



PLEASE NOTE!

If a child has an open case with the Dept. of Children and Family Services or the Office of Juvenile Justice, we will contact the agency for an update before opening a case with FINS.

**1100B Milton Street
New Orleans, LA 70122**

**(504) 658-9590
(504) 658-9611 (FAX)**

Is your child skipping school, running away, sneaking out, or breaking all the rules?

Hotlines

National Runaway Hotline	(800) 621-4000
National Youth Crisis Hotline	(800) 442-4673
Boys Town Parent/Teen	(800) 448-3000
Covenant House	(504) 584-1111
Crisis Teen Text Line	(504) 777-3273
Unity of Greater New Orleans	(888) 899-4589 (504) 821-4496



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What is FINS?

Families In Need of Services (FINS) is a legal proceeding including both formal and informal processes.

INFORMAL FINS is a voluntary pre-court intervention for a family that has a child for whom there is no pending investigation of abuse, neglect, or abandonment, or no court ordered supervision by the Department of Children and Family Services or the Office of Juvenile Justice. A child or family may be referred to the Informal FINS process of the Orleans Parish Juvenile Court for one or more of the following:

GROUND S

- Child is **truant** (absence or tardy), or has **willfully and repeatedly violated lawful school rules**
- Child is **ungovernable**
- Child is a **runaway**
- Child has **repeatedly possessed or consumed intoxicating beverages**, or **misrepresented age**, or **repeatedly loitered** in area of liquor store
- Child has **committed an offense applicable only to children** (i.e., curfew, use of tobacco, tattoo, local ordinances, etc.)
- Child **under 10 years** of age has **committed any act** which **if committed by an adult would be a crime** under any federal, state, or local law (e.g., child under 10 commits burglary, murder, etc., child is guilty of a status offense rather than delinquent act)
- **Caretaker** has **caused, encouraged**, or **contributed** to the **child's behaviors**, or to the **commission of delinquent acts**
- After notice, a **caretaker** has **willfully failed to attend a meeting with the child's teacher, school principal, or other appropriate school employee**
- Child **has been found incompetent** to proceed with a delinquency matter
- Child is found to have **engaged in cyberbullying**

Why choose FINS?

Families experience problems from time to time!

- ▶ **FINS staff is knowledgeable and caring.**
- ▶ **FINS staff work to help evaluate your family's risks and needs, including identifying and coordinating services.**
- ▶ **FINS help children and families develop personalized plans to resolve an immediate crisis or on going problems.**
- ▶ **FINS can assist with scheduling convenient appointment times with providers.**
- ▶ **FINS will help you communicate with providers to assure you are receiving appropriate services.**
- ▶ **FINS has created partnerships with many agencies that will work with you in your home, school and community.**

HELP IS AVAILABLE FOR YOUR FAMILY



HOW DOES FINS WORK?

The FINS process begins with a referral based on a violation of one or more of the ten (10) FINS grounds. The most common referrals are submitted by law enforcement, school officials, and parents.

WHAT TO EXPECT?

Our FINS case managers will work to connect you and your family with interventions designed to:

- Develop and set goals
- Identify and coordinate resources and services
- Provide individual and family counseling
- Offer mentoring and guidance
- Identify educational resources and support
- Develop and improve parenting and life skills
- Identify other appropriate and available resources

Every attempt is made to resolve the identified problems so that court intervention does not become necessary.