

Washington County  
Department of Social Services

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Juvenile Fire Intervention  
Response and Evaluation  
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Homan

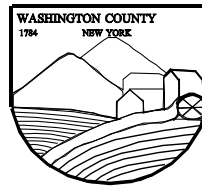
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Caseworker  
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Juvenile Delinquent/Preventive  
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**Washington County  
Department of Social  
Services  
Adolescent Preventive  
Services  
Building B, Municipal  
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12828**



PINS Adjustment Program

Juvenile Delinquent Assessment

Adolescent Residential Placement

Truancy Prevention Program

Juvenile Fire Intervention Response  
and Evaluation Program

Life Skills for Adolescents

Parenting Program

A **Person In Need of Supervision** is someone under the age of 18 whom:

- Does not attend school
- Is incorrigible
- Is ungovernable
- Is habitually disobedient
- Is beyond the lawful control of parent or guardian
- Is found to be possession of marijuana

The **PINS Adjustment Program** provides an immediate response to families in crisis and attempts to identify and facilitate access to appropriate services. The program's goal is to address the need for early, effective interventions to reduce out of home placements and Family Court involvement for troubled youth.

Cases are reviewed bi-weekly by the Designated Assessment Services team and treatment plans are created. Cases are monitored by a PINS Adjustment caseworker until closure. PINS Adjustment is an open-ended program, with no pre-determined time limit. The case will remain open until the child and family service needs are met. The PINS Adjustment process must attempt to improve the situation through direct intervention or referral for services, exhausting all resources, before a PINS

case is considered unsuccessful and closed and petitioned to Family Court.

A **Juvenile Delinquent** is an adolescent, under the age of sixteen, who has committed an act that would be considered a crime if he/she were over the age of sixteen.

The Adolescent Preventive Unit provides pre-court assessments on all Juvenile Delinquents in order to assist in making any appropriate referrals, as well as to assist the County Attorney in determining the necessary terms and conditions to be set forth by Family Court.

Under some circumstances, adolescents who are adjudicated a PINS or a Juvenile Delinquent are ordered into Foster Care placement. The Adolescent Caseworker assigned to follow the case through the Family Court process would then become the Case Manager and maintain the case as long as the adolescent remains in the care and custody of the Commissioner.

The Department of Social Services, in collaboration with the Washington County District Attorney's Office, began the **Truancy Prevention Program** to work with local school districts to address persistent truancy. The program was established to identify parents/guardians of truant students who, for reasons within their control, fail to show interest in their child's school attendance. It is hoped that through the intervention of the

truancy prevention program the parents/guardians will take a more active role in their children's education. In most of the cases opened, significant positive changes in attendance have been made after a parent receives the first truancy letter.

Parent's/guardians of excessively truant children who choose not to respond to attempts at intervention may be prosecuted for Endangering the Welfare of a Child, a Class A misdemeanor by the District Attorney.

It may also be necessary to make a report of Educational Neglect if non-attendance at school is adversely affecting the child's academic success. The Truancy Prevention Caseworker investigates all cases of Educational Neglect received through the State Central Register.

The Washington County Department of Social Services has implemented a **Life Skills Program** for our PINS and Foster Care Youth. Life Skills is mandated for Foster Care Youth ages 14 and up and the program has been opened up to select PINS youth. The program runs bi-weekly (every first and third Monday of each month) and concurrently with a parenting group offered to the parents of the PINS youth and Foster Parents.

With the Life Skills Program, the agency's goal is to equip youth with the skills they will need for self-sufficiency and success in the community when they are on their own.

The **Parenting Program** offers the parents of teenagers a forum to discuss issues that are specific to raising a teenager. Discipline issues, appropriate parent/child boundaries and navigating the Social Services system are among the topics of discussion. The class is facilitated by Dr. Michael Homenick of Psychological Associates and is held every first and third Monday of each month. The program is completed after attendance at four consecutive meetings but participants are encouraged to attend additional sessions if additional support is needed.

The **Juvenile Fire Intervention Response and Evaluation Program** is a program designed to provide intervention to children who have displayed firesetting behaviors. Several caseworkers within the Department are trained to assess for safety and risk in regard to firesetting behaviors and will assist local fire department officials in facilitating access to needed services and interventions.

When the safety of the child is compromised due to neglectful behaviors of their parents, a report will be made to the State Central Register. When law enforcement determines that a Juvenile Delinquent act has been committed, the caseworker will follow the child through the Family Court process.

Department of Social Services Intake:  
746-2300 extension 3306.