

Who to Call and When

NOTE: This document is a work in progress. While every effort will be made to keep this document current, information may occasionally change and you may not be able to reach the contact person. If you have any questions or concerns, please call Dawn A. Hulbert, Attorney ad Litem, at 727-582-7837.

To Our Valued Foster Care Parent or Child Care Provider: Please be aware that there can be severe consequences, both short and long-term, when a child is arrested and charged with a crime. On the bottom of this page you will find examples of how an arrest may impact a child. The following individuals are available to assist you in providing information in your time of crisis or to provide guidance to you and your child before a crisis occurs.

Counselors and Mental Health:

1. Name and Title: Patti Nagel, Director of Family Enrichment Services
Agency: Personal Enrichment through Mental Health Services (PEMHS)

(a) Contact Information: Family Counseling System of Care (FCSOC), on-call 727-362-4240

Role in the Dependency/Delinquency System: The FCSOC provides children and families access to mental health services in Pinellas County when there are no other financial resources available to meet the family's needs. Access to a variety of school-based, office-based and in-home mental health services are available to eligible families. There is no cost to the family for the mental health services that the family is linked to. Families are also assisted in utilizing their mental health insurance benefits.

When to Call: 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday-Friday

(b) Contact Information: Post Detention Community Services (PDCS), Gayle McNeill: 727-456-0600, Ext. 2245

Role in the Dependency/Delinquency System: The PDCS program provides in home assessment, case management and linkage to families whose child has experienced a first time detainment at the Juvenile Detention Center or the JAC. The program provides up to 3 months of services to stabilize the child and help ensure that the child has other focus activities beside delinquent behavior.

When to Call: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday-Friday

(c) Contact Information: Emergency Response Team (ERT), on-call: 727-504-0340

Role in the Dependency/Delinquency System: The ERT provides in home crisis intervention, assessment and linkage for 6-8 weeks to families whose child(ren) are at

risk of removal due to abuse/neglect. The eligibility for the program is that the family must live in Pinellas County, a child in the family must be at risk of removal, and one of the following issues must be present – Mental health, Substance Abuse, Domestic Violence or Child Behavior. Referral source is the Sheriff's office CPID and ECA.

When to Call: Anytime, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

2. Name and Title: Christine Jaggi, Ph.D., Licensed Psychologist; Adele Solazzo, Ph.D., Licensed Psychologist; Cindy Zarlino, Ph.D., Licensed Psychologist

Agency: Behavioral Evaluation Program (BEVO), Unified Family Court (UFC), Sixth Judicial Circuit

Contact Information: 727-464-7373

Role in the Dependency/Delinquency System: Youth and family evaluations with recommendations for services and assistance obtaining services when ordered by the court. Assistance with alternatives to incarceration at JDC.

When to Call: May be of assistance if family/youth has been evaluated and is having difficulty obtaining appropriate services.

Removal, Case Management and Dependency Proceedings:

3. Name and Title: Lt. Greg S. Handsel, CPID

Agency: Pinellas County Sheriff's Office – Child Protection Investigation Division

Contact Information: 727-582-3800

Role in the Dependency/Delinquency System: Child Protection Investigators work to protect children and work with families who are subjects of allegations of abuse, neglect and/or abandonment received by the Florida Abuse Hotline. Some examples of job duties include removing children from unsafe environments, supervising them, and arranging transportation to an approved shelter facility or home. In addition, investigators also arrange and/or refer families to social services entities and testifies in judicial proceedings.

When to Call: The Pinellas County Sheriff's Office, Child Protection Investigations Division is a contracted provider by the Department of Children and Families. Any concerns of Abuse, Neglect or Abandonment must be made to the Florida Abuse Hotline (1-800-96-ABUSE), not by directly calling the Sheriff's Office. If a report is accepted by the hotline concerning a child under the age of 18 who resides in Pinellas County, the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office-CPID will be forwarded the report and will conduct an investigation of the allegations. The assigned investigator in consultation with supervisory staff and dependency attorneys will determine if legal sufficiency exists to warrant a child's removal from their caregivers based on findings of the allegations called to the hotline. Once a child is removed and the dependency process is initiated, the child's case is staffed with Eckerd Community Alternatives and the family is assigned a case manager.

4. Name and Title: Gynda Galan, Team Leader, Case Management

Agency: Gulfcoast Community Care (GCC, contracted with Lead Agency, Eckerd Community Alternatives)

Contact Information:

Role in the Dependency/Delinquency System:

When to Call:

5. Name and Title: Dane Disano, Assistant State Attorney, Dependency Division

Agency: Office of the State Attorney, Sixth Judicial Circuit

Contact Information:

Role in the Dependency/Delinquency System:

When to Call:

6. Name and Title: Donna Rasmussen, Director; Barbra Sessa, Assistant Director; Kelly Rossi, Area Coordinator; Sharon Morten, Delinquency Specialist/Staff Advocate; Marco Sandusky, Pasco Area Coordinator

Agency: Guardian ad Litem Program, Sixth Judicial Circuit

Contact Information: 727-464-6528 (Pinellas); 727-834-3493 (West Pasco); 352-521-5178 (Dade City). If you have an assigned GAL, call him or her. If you do not know who your GAL attorney is, or you have questions about having a GAL assigned to your case, call the Pinellas number listed above for information.

Role in the Dependency/Delinquency System: The GAL Program is appointed by the court primarily in dependency cases. The GAL program will accept dependency with cross-over delinquency cases to advocate for the best interests of the child when there are allegations of abuse, neglect or abandonment. The child must already be under court supervision.

When to Call: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday

7. Name and Title: Dawn A. Hulbert, Attorney ad Litem

Agency: Community Law Program

Contact Information: 727-582-7837 or 727-455-5778

Role in the Dependency/Delinquency System: Provides legal representation and advice to foster children, ages 13 to 19 years old, with a wide-range of civil matters, including: special education, medical/mental health/disability assistance, social security, landlord/tenant, contracts, and independent living services. Collaborates with community partners to facilitate optimum care of foster children.

When to Call: When legal advocacy is needed to address the areas delineated above.

Delinquency Proceedings:

8. Name and Title: Timothy Niermann, Chief Probation Officer

Agency: Florida Department of Juvenile Justice

Contact Information: 727-893-2000

Role in the Dependency/Delinquency System: Administration of juvenile probation services in Pinellas and Pasco Counties. The Department also operates secure detention centers and residential commitment programs. Department services are detailed at www.djj.state.fl.us

When to Call: All youth charged with delinquent offenses are assigned a Intake Probation Officer. Call if any clarification is needed regarding a foster care youth charged with a delinquent offense.

9. Name and Title: Steve Nelson, Patrice Moore, and Tayna Alexander - Assistant Public Defenders

Agency: Office of the Public Defender – Sixth Judicial Circuit of Florida

Contact Information: Legal Assistant – Raelynn, 727-464-6636

Role in the Dependency/Delinquency System: Attorney ad Litem for children who have been charged with an act of delinquency or who have been charged with a crime (if State is prosecuting child as an adult). Act as defense attorney in defending child against prosecution and/or advocating alternatives to formal prosecution.

When to Call: When child is being sought for arrest or questioning by the police; when police are seeking to search child's person, property, vehicle or residence; or, immediately upon the arrest of child. Do not wait for a court date, if a child has been arrested.

10. Name and Title: Delinquency Division

Agency: Office of the State Attorney, Sixth Judicial Circuit

Contact Information: 727-464-6916 – Delinquency Division; 727-464-6221 – Main Phone Number

Role in the Dependency/Delinquency System: Investigates and evaluates incoming juvenile complaints for delinquency prosecution.

When to Call: After an arrest, defendants, parents, victims, or case-related professionals may contact our office and they will be referred to the assigned attorney, if appropriate. Cases that have Public Defenders appointed are referred to their office and generally their attorneys contact our attorneys directly if needed.

Department of Children and Families, State of Florida, and Contracted Lead Agency

11. Name and Title: Bob Henriquez, Circuit Administrator, Sixth Judicial Circuit

Agency: Department of Children and Families (DCF)

Contact Information: Office: 727-588-6993; Cell: 727-423-0012, Fax: 727-588-6979

Role in the Dependency/Delinquency System: Lead Administrator for DCF in the Sixth Judicial Circuit, Pinellas and Pasco Counties

When to Call: Please call when you have a high profile case or need to bring Executive-level personnel together to solve a complex or immediate issue.

In addition, call if the lead agency or contractors are unresponsive or have (in the view of the caller) made a decision that could negatively impact the safety or well-being of a child within the dependency system. Calls to me should take place once the proper chain of command within the system has been followed and presumably broken down.

12. Name and Title: David Stoops, Out of Home Care Director

Agency: Eckerd Community Alternatives (ECA)

Contact Information: 727-608-7463

Role in Dependency/Delinquency System: Oversee all out of home care operations

When to call: If you are unable to reach the child's case manager, or the on-call worker after hours, and need assistance regarding a child receiving services through the lead agency.

13. Name and Title: Lorita Shirley, Senior Director of Operations

Agency: Eckerd Community Alternatives (ECA)

Contact Information: 727-631-6241

Role in the Dependency/Delinquency System: Oversee daily operations of the CBC Lead Agency

When to Call: If you are unable to reach our Lead Agency OHC Director after hours and need assistance related to a child receiving services.

Child Welfare Advocacy

14. Name and Title: Jeanine Evoli, Manager of Child Welfare Advocacy

Agency: JWB Children's Services Council of Pinellas County

Contact Information: 727-547-5623 or jevoli@jwbpinellas.org

Mission of Child Welfare Advocacy Office: To provide a safe and cooperative format to address systemic challenges and barriers raised by youth, families and the community that impact the efficacy of the children's services delivery system in Pinellas County.

Role in the Dependency/Delinquency System: The Child Welfare Advocacy Office's primary focus is on collecting, analyzing, and providing information; monitoring system performance, and making recommendations that improve the safety, permanence, and well-being of children and families throughout the county. Repeated trends and issues needing to be addressed are reported to providers and key officials on a continuing basis, the goal being to improve the system.

When to Call: When systemic challenges or barriers are identified.

15. Name and Title: Kathy Mize, Executive Director

Agency: Ready for Life, Inc.

Contact Information: Address: 2731 – 13th Avenue North, St. Petersburg, FL 33713; Phone Number: 727-631-1778; e-mail: info@readyforlife.org or kmize@readyforlifepinellas.org

Role in the Dependency/Delinquency System: The mission of Ready of Life is to engage foster care youth, private citizens and public resources to assist Pinellas County foster youth in a successful transition to adulthood.

When to Call: Ready for Life is available to provide assistance through operating as a central hub of information and connecting the young people with specific resources that will help the foster care youth transition into adulthood, including: education, employment, health, housing, legal, life skills, substance abuse, and transportation. Ready for Life is committed to involving the youth as resources as we develop our organization. The goal of Ready for Life is help the young adult attain self-sufficiency by providing a strong safety net of support services.

16. Name and Title: Juli Kempner, Director of Legal and Advocacy Services

Agency: Advocacy Center for Persons with Disabilities, Inc.

Contact Information: Toll free number: 800-342-0823, In-take and referral; or visit our website <http://www.advocacycenter.org/intake/index.cfm> .

Role in the Dependency/Delinquency System: The Advocacy Center for Persons with Disabilities, Inc. is the official, Governor-designated protection and advocacy system for the State of Florida. The Advocacy Center has authority and responsibility under eight federal programs. We are a statewide, not-for-profit corporation. Our mission is to advance the quality of life, dignity, equality, self-determination, and freedom of choice of persons with disabilities through collaboration, education, advocacy, as well as legal and legislative strategies. Our goals and priorities include the following: (1) Developmental Disabilities Services; (2) Mental Health Services; (3) Abuse/Neglect; (4) Disability Information; (5) Rights Protection; (6) Youth Services; (7) Education; (8) Employment; (9) Economic Self-Empowerment; (10) Self-Help; (11) Voting; and, (12) Special Needs/Services.

When to Call: You can request our services by calling our toll free number, 1-800-342-0823. During the intake process, a member of our Frontline Intake and Referral Services Team (FIRST) will conduct an interview to evaluate the situation. This team member will gather information about concerns and provide information.

Adverse consequences of a Juvenile Criminal History:

- Employment suspension or termination.
- Academic suspension or expulsion.
- Loss of scholarships.
- Denial of professional and/or occupational licenses.
- Loss of professional and/or occupational licenses.
- Loss of civil rights, including the right to vote.
- Loss of right to possess firearms.
- Administrative license suspension.
- Deportation or denial of citizenship for immigrants.
- Loss of reputation in your community.
- The time and cost to have record sealed or expunged
- Public humiliation.