



Child in Need of Supervision (CINS)

What is a Child in Need of Supervision (CINS)?

A Child In Need of Supervision (CINS) is a child who needs guidance, treatment, or rehabilitation, and falls under one of these categories:

- Must legally go to school, but routinely does not;
- Regularly cannot be controlled by the child's parents, guardians, or custodians,
- Acts in a way that is dangerous to self or others, or
- Has committed an offense applicable only to children (like running away, violating curfew, or drinking alcohol.).

How do I file a CINS complaint?

Visit the Department of Juvenile Services Intake office in order to request a CINS complaint and speak with an Intake officer about your concerns. Law enforcement or other agencies may file a CINS complaint directly with the Department of Juvenile Services.

What happens after I fill out a CINS complaint form?

The DJS Intake office will review your CINS complaint form. A DJS Intake officer will conduct a meeting with the youth and their parent/guardian and discuss appropriate interventions and services to address the underlying problem. Within 25 days, DJS Intake will either:

- Decline the CINS complaint. DJS may still refer the youth to services as appropriate;
- Resolve the complaint and refer the youth to appropriate services;
- Enter into a Pre-court Supervision Agreement where the youth and family agree to certain conditions, including participation in treatment services, without court involvement;
- File a petition with the juvenile court if there has been a failure of community-based interventions and the most appropriate service is only available through juvenile court.

If DJS Intake refuses to file the CINS complaint with the court, can I appeal their decision?

If DJS Intake decides not to file a CINS petition with the juvenile court, you may appeal this decision to the DJS Regional Intake Director within 15 days.

If a CINS petition is filed with the court, what happens next?

The court will set a date for an adjudicatory hearing to determine if the facts contained in the CINS petition are true. If the court decides the facts in the petition are true, the court will hold another hearing to determine what action the court should take and whether:

- The child needs formal supervision by DJS,
- The child needs informal supervision by the DJS for a limited time (called "informal adjustment"),
or
- No action is necessary.