

Children in Need of Supervision Complaint Process (CINS)



In Maryland, any person may file a Children in Need of Supervision (CINS) complaint with the Maryland Department of Juvenile Services. This includes law enforcement.

As of November 1, 2024, law enforcement officers are **REQUIRED** to file a CINS complaint with DJS anytime a complaint alleges theft of a motor vehicle (under Criminal Law Article § 7-105) by a young person under 13.

What is a Child in Need of Supervision?

A Child in Need of Supervision is defined as a young person who requires guidance, treatment, or rehabilitation and:

1. Is required by law to attend school but routinely does not;
2. Is habitually disobedient, ungovernable, and beyond the control of the child's parents, guardian, or custodians;
3. Acts in a way that is dangerous to self or others; or
4. Has committed an offense applicable only to children.

When is a CINS Complaint Appropriate and What Happens After I File?

STEP
1

Identify if a CINS Complaint is Appropriate

A CINS complaint may be filed if a young person meets the definition of a CINS (above) **OR** if the law enforcement officer alleges theft of a motor vehicle by a young person under 13.



STEP
2

File a CINS Complaint with DJS

CINS complaints are filed with the local DJS Intake Office either electronically or as a paper referral. Your local intake office for _____ can be reached at _____.



STEP
3

DJS CINS Intake

1. Contact the young person and parent/guardian/custodian to schedule a meeting;
2. Meet with the young person and family; and
3. Within 15 business days, DJS makes an intake decision.



STEP
4

Intake Decision

DJS will determine one of the following outcomes:

1. **Resolve (Deny):** DJS resolves the CINS complaint at Intake with or without services
2. **Informal:** Enter into a Pre-Court Supervision Agreement where the youth and family agree to certain conditions without court involvement
3. **Authorize:** File the CINS complaint for formal petition with the juvenile court



STEP
5

Notification and Appeal

DJS will electronically notify the referring party of the decision and their right to appeal.



Children in Need of Supervision Process

continued



Frequently Asked Questions

Question

Answer

Can only law enforcement file CINS complaints?

No. Anyone can file a CINS complaint.

Can a CINS complaint be filed for youth at any age?

A child must be under the age of 18 to be the subject of a CINS complaint.

Does law enforcement have to file a CINS complaint in specific instances?

Yes. Law enforcement must file a CINS complaint if the complaint alleges theft of a motor vehicle by a young person under 13.

Can a young person be detained if a CINS complaint is filed?

No. State law prohibits the use of detention when CINS complaints are filed.

What type of services can young people receive in response to a CINS complaint?

A young person and their family may be referred to any community-based services, interventions, or programs that meet the young person's needs such as behavior health services, family supports, mentoring programs, etc.

If law enforcement files a CINS complaint and there are allegations of abuse or neglect, does law enforcement still have to make a CPS report?

Yes. Filing a CINS complaint with DJS does not alleviate a mandatory reporter's duty to make a CPS report if there are abuse or neglect allegations.

*Have additional questions about CINS Complaints?
Please reach out to your local Intake Office at:*