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Office of Children
and Family Services

Family Advocacy Services

with the Division of
Juvenile Justice and
Opportunities for
Youth (DJJOY)



If you are a family member of a Juvenile Delinquent (JD) or a Juvenile Offender (JO) youth placed in care of the New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS), learn more about the family advocate support services available for you and your family.



The goals of the Family Advocate and Family Engagement Specialists are to:

- ◆ provide assistance to youth placed with OCFS and their family members. Specialists and advocates assist with enhancing the home environment for family members to grow and help them develop skills to prevent other family members from entering the juvenile and adult justice system.
- ◆ find services where needed, and advocate for services when challenges are present
- ◆ provide direct assistance when there is a gap in services delivery
- ◆ assist families in accessing services and NOT being victimized or excluded from systems that are not accessible
- ◆ encourage families to be their best and share their experiences with their peers



Beliefs and Assumptions

We believe:

- ◆ families are important to the re-entry process
- ◆ families are willing to accept support when the services are appropriate, inclusive and nondiscriminatory
- ◆ families do not give up on their loved ones
- ◆ families want to be a part of the planning for youth treatment and release



The Family Advocate and Family Engagement Specialist advocates on behalf of the youth and family members, working with facility and community case managers and community service providers.

We are committed to:

- ◆ collaborating with OCFS case managers and stakeholders from other systems to facilitate a smooth re-entry into the community and home
- ◆ assisting family members with participation in youth's monthly support team meetings
- ◆ providing wrap-around family support services to youth and family members
- ◆ maintaining contact with family members at least monthly and more frequently based on the family's needs
- ◆ attending Statewide Family Partnership Committee meetings to be the voice of the families and caregivers who are unable to attend or call in for meetings