



**Family Assessment Program**  
Locations are open Monday–Friday,  
From: 9:00a.m.–5:00p.m.

For families residing in Manhattan:  
Manhattan Family Court  
60 Lafayette Street, 2nd floor  
New York, NY 10013  
(212) 341-0012

For families residing in Brooklyn:  
345 Adams Street, 8th floor  
Brooklyn, NY 11201  
(718) 260-8550 and (718) 260-8508

For families residing in Queens:  
Queens Family Court, 4th floor  
151-20 Jamaica Avenue  
Jamaica, NY 11433  
(718) 725-3244

For families residing in the Bronx:  
248 E 161st Street, Ground floor  
Bronx, NY 10451  
(718) 664-1731

For families residing in Staten Island:  
51 Stuyvesant Place, 3rd Floor  
Staten Island, NY 10301  
(718) 720-0418

For additional information  
about ACS programs  
for children, adolescents and families,  
call 311



NYC Administration  
for Children's Services

Michael R. Bloomberg, Mayor  
John B. Mattingly, Commissioner  
Zeinab Chahine, Executive Deputy Commissioner

# The Family Assessment Program

*Changing Service  
Delivery for  
Adolescents and  
Their Families*





# The Family Assessment Program

## *Being a Family is Not Easy!*

Families in New York City sometimes experience many issues and situations which may leave them feeling overwhelmed. Being a parent can be a complicated job, due to the need to provide support and guidance to your child(ren) while maintaining your own identity. Being an adolescent can also be complicated, due to mixed feelings about parents, friends, school and other factors during a time of development and identity seeking.

In recognition of these concerns, and to provide support to families, The New York City Administration for Children's Services (ACS) and Department of Probation (DOP) have combined efforts to more effectively help families with adolescents when they seek help from the Family Court.

## *The Family Assessment Program Can:*

- Provide information and assistance to adolescents and their families so they can remain together and resolve issues and concerns.
- Educate families about services that are available to provide needed support as an alternative to court involvement.
- Explain and refer families to appropriate services, often within their own communities.

## *What is the Family Assessment Program?*

The Family Assessment Program (FAP) was created to offer information and assistance to help families make well-informed decisions about how to resolve problems and concerns without placing children in foster care through a Persons In Need of Supervision (PINS) petition. All families who request PINS services will first be seen by the Family Assessment Program social work staff.

Families will meet with a Family Assessment Specialist (FAS), an experienced ACS social worker specially trained to work with adolescent/family issues from a family-centered, strength-based perspective. This model helps families to examine their situations from multiple perspectives. It also assists and empowers families by helping them identify options that can be used to create action plans.

Family Assessment Specialists use social work skills to work with parents and youth to highlight and affirm strengths; to identify service needs; and to provide referrals to the most appropriate services that will help families work through their present challenges.

Any family can receive assistance from Family Assessment Program. Families are not required to have an open case with ACS to obtain help.

## *What is the Process?*

When a family comes to the Family Assessment Program, the parent(s) and the youth are interviewed both separately and together. This permits each family member to share their individual feelings and experiences. The process also explores how each family member has attempted to cope with their situation. The Family Assessment Specialists can then help the family to identify and focus upon the issues that require immediate attention.

Families can be referred to a variety of services: the Designated Assessment Services (DAS) that are used to defer PINS placements; crisis intervention; mediation; preventive services; family counseling; substance abuse services; domestic violence programs; anger management; and other services that a family may request.

According to NYS law, all service options must be exhausted to the point where the family is not likely to benefit from any additional referral prior to moving forward with the PINS court process. If services can not remediate the situation, and the family wants to proceed with the court process, the FAS will provide the referral to the Department of Probation for Family Court access. Participation in services is not required to obtain a warrant for a missing child. However, after the child is located and brought to court, the family is expected to return to FAP for service assessment and referral.