

SENECA COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT

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PRE-PINS DIVERSION INFORMATION FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS

New York State has implemented the Pre-PINS Diversion Program in lieu of placing a child immediately on PINS Diversion. There are no walk in appointments, nor can we petition your child immediately for Court action. Everyone who wishes PINS services must go through the Pre-PINS Diversion Program first.

Pre-PINS Diversion Program is New York State's way of getting a youth's needs met without having to place them on a regular PINS program with rules and sanctions. It is supposed to help families help themselves. Once you have set up a Pre-Diversion Screening with the Probation Department, you will need to bring your child in for one meeting with a Probation Officer. Said meeting will be to obtain basic information regarding your child and yourselves. Also during this meeting, services will be offered and contact information will be given on who to call to initiate those services. For example, if your child has mental health issues or substance abuse issues, you will be able to go right after your screening appointment to the Youth Bureau where they will do the paperwork and refer your child to those services. The Youth Bureau/Probation Department will also be able to refer your child to Anger Management classes if need be. You will have to accept any and all services offered or your child's case will go no further in the system.

Pre-PINS Diversion does not mean your child is on Probation, nor does it mean they will see a Probation Officer on a regular basis. There are no on call numbers for weekend or after hour's assistance from Probation. Families must utilize available services to meet their child's needs and parents are expected to be able to handle crises and punishments that are both safe and appropriate. If there is a time when you feel your child would benefit from more services, then you will be able to contact the Probation Officer and they can assist you in getting the contact information.

Please note your lack of follow through will keep your child's case at the Pre-PINS Diversion phase until you have successfully gone through the recommended programs. Also note that if your child is a runaway, then a missing person report needs to be filed prior to meeting with a Probation Officer. If your child is sixteen years old or older, then you need to realize that your options are limited, but there are still services available for your family.