

FAMILY KEYS

Family Keys provides services to families who have filed PINS petitions. The goal is to decrease the number of youth placed in out-of-home care by providing families with intensive, short-term crisis intervention services and linkages to services. We also provide services to youth and families involved with family court as a result of a Runaway Emergency PINS petition. Immediate response, 24-hour/365 days-per-year availability, and services delivered based upon the family's need and availability are the hallmarks of this program. Contacts occur at home, in the neighborhood, at school, work, or in the Southwest Key office. Staff assess the current situation, as well as the needs and strengths of all members of the household to determine an appropriate intervention plan that provides on-going support to the young person and their family.

Program Overview

Once a referral is received from the Department of Probation, our Family Support Caseworkers attempt face-to-face contact with all families multiple times during a two week time period, dependent upon the needs and interests of the family. Casework and clinical staff work with the family to de-escalate the crisis and mediate the dispute. A family agreement is developed to articulate the desired changes in family interaction and set expectations for behavior and follow up. Family Support Caseworkers are available for emotional support, to continue the assessment process, follow up on the implementation of the family agreement and provide skill building to address the issues that resulted in the crisis. Through this process, families are empowered to address their needs and assisted in accessing services. To adequately meet the needs of the family, service referrals are coupled with a plan to provide on-going support.

Family Keys Runaway Program

The Family Keys Runaway Program serves young people and their families involved with family court as a result of a Runaway Emergency PINS (Person In Need of Supervision) petition. The goal of the Southwest Key Family Keys Program is to decrease the number of youth placed in out-of-home care as a result of a Runaway Emergency PINS Petition. The program provides families with intensive, short-term crisis intervention services coupled with service referrals and linkages. It also provides families who have filed a runaway petition an immediate home-based intervention service in which a workable plan is developed to address the needs of the runaway youth and family as a whole. Families receive services for a four to eight week period during which time crises can be calmed, service needs identified and service referrals and linkages put into place. Our Family Support Caseworkers work in partnership with families, adults and youth to de-escalate family conflicts, develop youth/adult contracts and identify helpful services, pro-social activities and supports available within the family network and the community.

Program Description

Immediately upon filing a runaway petition a caseworker will be available to talk through concerns with the family, provide information about the process and begin discussion about needed/available services and supports. The family will be provided information regarding the court process and what will take place when the child is picked up. While the child remains missing regular intervention will focus on the family's concerns for their child and anger/family conflict. Once the child is found or returns home the caseworker will be immediately available to attend court with the family and provide recommendations to the court based on the re-determined plan and family assessment. The Family Support Caseworker continues to work with the family to assist in implementing the pre-determined plan and/or recommendations made by Family Court. During this time the caseworker will work to develop a relationship with the youth and assess their concerns. In addition, the caseworker will ensure services are put into place as quickly as possible and will utilize community resources as needed. If the child is placed for short-term evaluation, the caseworker will work closely with the placement agency to ensure meaningful family involvement and that the youth returns to their community as soon as possible. Family Keys staff continues working with the family in the development and implementation of a long-term plan that includes needed services and support.

To learn more about Family Keys or any other Southwest Key program, please visit our website at

www.swkey.org or e-mail info@swkey.org or write:

Southwest Key Programs | 6002 Jain Lane | Austin, Texas 78721 | **p** 512.462.2181 | **f** 512.462.2028