

Trouble Ahead?

Could Your Child Be Headed for Trouble?

The Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) provides care and supervision for youth who have broken a law. DJJ also works with families to keep their children from getting into trouble. Many of our families ask, "How can I tell if my child is headed for trouble?" Look for these signs:



By Brandon Prodigy Artist Carolina

- Is your child having trouble in school?**
 - Suspended, expelled or unexcused absences?
 - Grades falling, not doing homework, talking of quitting?
 - Showing signs of being bullied?
- Has your child pulled away from your family?**
 - Refusing to do chores?
 - Avoiding family activities or even conversations?
- Does your child get angry easily?**
 - Being verbally abusive?
 - Being violent or being attracted to violence?
- Is your child disrespectful of you, teachers or the law?**
 - Not caring about consequences?
 - Lying about where he is or what he is doing?
 - Taking money or personal items from you or others?
 - Hanging out with friends you don't know or don't trust?
 - Experimenting with drugs or alcohol?
 - Sexually acting out?
- Does your child seem "down" or unmotivated?**
 - Caring less about his appearance?
 - Having unexplained cuts or wearing long sleeves and pants in warm weather?
 - Wanting to be alone most of the time?
 - Loss of interest in old friends, hobbies, activities?
 - Lacking self-worth and self-esteem?
 - Giving away his possessions?
 - Talking about suicide?

You may want to get help if several of these describe your child's behavior. You may also seek help if he is having serious problems in just one area.

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Do YOU Need Help?

- Are you tired from trying to improve your child's behavior?
- Do you trust your child?
- Are you worried about your child's safety or future?
- Are you concerned for your own safety or that of other family members?
- Do you feel powerless?



Help is Available...

You are not alone! Many families need help dealing with a child that is making poor decisions. It can be hard if your child has fallen into the wrong crowd or has begun to make choices that will poorly affect his life. But DJJ can get help—for you and your child.

Florida Department of Juvenile Justice Prevention Help Line

1-866-757-0634

Please NOTE: The Prevention Helpline is NOT a counseling service number. It is to connect you with help. All calls go to a voice mail system that is checked daily

Other local resources:

The Florida Department of Juvenile Justice

Rick Scott, Governor

Christina K. Daly, Secretary

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www.djj.state.fl.us