

INTERAGENCY RESOURCES FOR CHILDREN'S BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Partnering to help families secure needed services for children and adolescents

Illinois DCFS partners with the state agencies and medical professionals who work to provide youth with the mental and behavioral health services they need to grow and prosper. There is a great need for these services, and there are times when it is appropriate to turn to state agencies to help locate resources for these children. This guide provides a list of resources and steps for medical professionals to help families access appropriate services for youth in need of post-hospital psychiatric care.



ILLINOIS FOCUS ON PRESERVING FAMILIES

- Illinois is committed to preserving families and eliminating separation of children from the custody of their parents when their primary need is behavioral and mental health services.
- Parents who are trying to secure needed services should be supported, and children in need of mental health care should not be assigned to the custody of the State of Illinois for this reason alone.
- DCFS is providing clear guidance to the hotline team to enable staff to distinguish between cases where parents are neglecting to provide for their children, and parents who want to provide for their children but have not been able to secure needed resources.
- DCFS is working in partnership with the state departments of Human Services (DHS), Healthcare and Family Services (HFS), Juvenile Justice (DJJ) and Public Health (DPH), and the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) to minimize unnecessary family separation in cases where psychiatric care is the predominant need.

What is a lock-out?

A lock-out is when parents or caregivers show blatant disregard for a child's needs by denying them access to the home and refusing or failing to make provisions for another living arrangement for the child.

Research shows that children are best served when they are able to remain with their families and receive supportive community-based services.

A lock-out constitutes an allegation of child abuse or neglect, and should not be used in cases where despite parental efforts, the insufficiency of resources or wait times have prevented youth service or placement needs from being met. DCFS custody for this reason:

- **Does not expedite placement.**
- Limits the resources available from other agencies or providers to support the family.
- Brings a child and family into the state child welfare system even though the parent has not abused or neglected him/her.

What happens at the DCFS hotline in case of a lock-out?

- The call floor worker at the hotline will create an investigation when there is reasonable cause to believe that the parent has demonstrated blatant disregard for their child by refusing or failing to make provisions for the child's living arrangement.
- When the call floor worker does not hear information that demonstrates reasonable cause to believe a parent has refused or failed to make provisions, they will open a Child Welfare Service (CWS) referral and provide applicable connections to the agencies that may be able to assist.

RESOURCES & SUPPORT TO ACCESS CARE

How You Can Help

Speak with the family to determine what services may be available or in place with other state agencies and offer to help the family access these services.

- [CARES](#) – Statewide crisis hotline for youth under the age of 21 and Medicaid eligible adults seeking Mobile Crisis Response services. Call 800-345-9049 for more information.
- [988 – National Suicide and Crisis Lifeline](#) Access point to statewide community-based crisis resources.
- [SASS](#) – 90-day program of crisis stabilization to link youth under the age of 21 to clinical services. Call CARES (800-345-9049) for more information.
- [Comprehensive Community-Based Youth Services \(CCBYS\)](#) – Program to preserve and stabilize families; and to divert or minimize involvement in the child welfare and/or juvenile justice systems. (For youth ages 11-17.) Call 877 870 2663
- [HFS Family Support Program \(FSP\)](#) – Access to intensive community mental health services and supports for youth diagnosed with a severe emotional disturbance. FSP provides access to community based supports, and when appropriate residential treatment services. Call 217-557-1000 or email HFS.BBH@illinois.gov.
- [Specialized Family Support Program \(SFSP\)](#) – 90-day support program to support transition to a lower level of care from inpatient psychiatric hospitalization. Call 800-345-9049 or email HFS.BBH@illinois.gov.
- [DHS First Episode Psychosis \(First.IL\)](#) – Team-based treatment program aimed at improving mental health and quality of life for individuals age 14 to 40 who have experienced a first episode of a psychotic illness.
- [Local school district](#) – Contact local school administration to request a meeting and/or to discuss school-based supports including social work services, counseling supports and safety plan.
- [ISC](#) – DHS case management services for intellectually or developmentally delayed youth and their families. Use the “Office Locator” tool for contact information.
- [Homeless youth programs](#) – DHS emergency and transitional housing for homeless youth aged 14-23. Call 1 800 843 6154 for more information.
- [SPIDER](#) – Community-based provider search engine.

Identify service needs that can be met through DCFS programs which may help the child return home.

- [Child Welfare Service Referral](#)
- [Extended Family Support Program](#)
- [Family Advocacy Centers](#)
- [Intact Family Services](#)
- [Post-Adoption/Guardianship supports](#)

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