



The Legal Advocacy Works (LAW) program serves low-income youth, up to age 18, who are dually involved in the dependency and delinquency systems and/or youth in either the dependency or delinquency system at risk of dual involvement (i.e. “crossover youth” or youth at risk of becoming “crossover youth”). Youth served by LAW may be referred by the Juvenile Division of the State Attorney’s Office, the Public Defender’s Office, or any other community, child welfare or children’s service agency.

Eligible delinquent youth must have at least two of the following risk factors for *dependency*

- History of child abuse and/or neglect
- Currently or previously involved in the dependency system
- History of running away
- Known disruptions in bonding and attachment between parent and child
- Persistent, serious family conflict or domestic violence requiring intervention by law enforcement
- Persistent, serious family stress and/or instability which significantly impacts family functioning
- Documented history of family management problems, poor parental supervision and/or inappropriate or severe discipline practices
- Parent history of substance abuse
- Parent history of depression or other mental or behavioral conditions
- Parent with developmental conditions that impacts family functioning

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OR

Eligible dependent youth must have at least two of the following risk factors for *delinquency*

- Family member(s) in the delinquency system
- Currently or previously involved in the delinquency system
- Delinquent and/or anti-social peers
- History of substance abuse or mental health problems
- Identified as habitually truant
- Documented disciplinary and/or school attendance problems and/or performing below grade level
- School drop-out or have been placed in an alternative school setting
- Unmet special education needs
- Reside in a high crime area



The LAW-line serves as a legal helpline for youth and families who have questions or concerns related to youth’s involve-

ment with the delinquency and/or dependency systems. The helpline is supported by a qualified attorney who identifies the legal issues brought forward and the potential legal consequences for the different options available. Additionally, conversations with the attorney are protected under the recognized attorney-client privilege thus providing the opportunity for youth and family to be honest and secure when calling the helpline. LAW-line is maintained at the offices of Legal Aid of Broward County.