

continued...

***If your family is involved with CYF, you have the responsibility to:***

- Complete as many programs as you can for you and for your child.
  - Your Family Service Plan (FSP) is the roadmap leading to your family's reunification. Stick to it, work on it daily, and speak up right away if you have any concerns. You must sign up for the programs you need at the jail as soon as you can.

***There can be waiting lists!***

- Participate in Family Court Proceedings and CYF Meetings.
  - You can participate in hearings with notice. Your CYF caseworker will work with you via phone or video conference. Keep in mind, however, that you must plan in advance. If you cannot participate, make sure your attorney or caseworker knows. Get copies and keep all new paperwork after the meeting or proceeding is held.

## ***Resources:***

### **Jail Resources**

Allegheny County Jail Main: 412-350-2000

Allegheny County Jail Discharge Center:

412-350-2675 or 412-350.2676

### **Child Welfare Resources**

Juvenile Court Project: 412-391-4467 (Parent advocates)

Allegheny County Department of Human Services  
Offices of Children, Youth and Families

CYF-South: 412-488-8500

CYF-East: 412-473-1100

CYF-Central: 412-350-3600

CYF-North: 412-323-6100

CYF-Mon Valley: 412-664-8900

Director's Action Line: 800-862-6783  
(Consumer concerns/complaints)

### **Other Resources**

PA Southwest 2-1-1

(Health, housing and human service information)

Re:Solve Crisis: 888-7-YOU-CAN (888-796-8226)

Amachi Pittsburgh: 412-281-1288

(Mentor program for youth with incarcerated parents)

DHS Systems Advocate: 412-350-6610

(Support for children of incarcerated parents)



### ***Allegheny County***

Rich Fitzgerald, Allegheny County Executive

Marc Cherna, DHS Director

Orlando Harper, Warden

### **[www.alleghenycounty.us](http://www.alleghenycounty.us)**

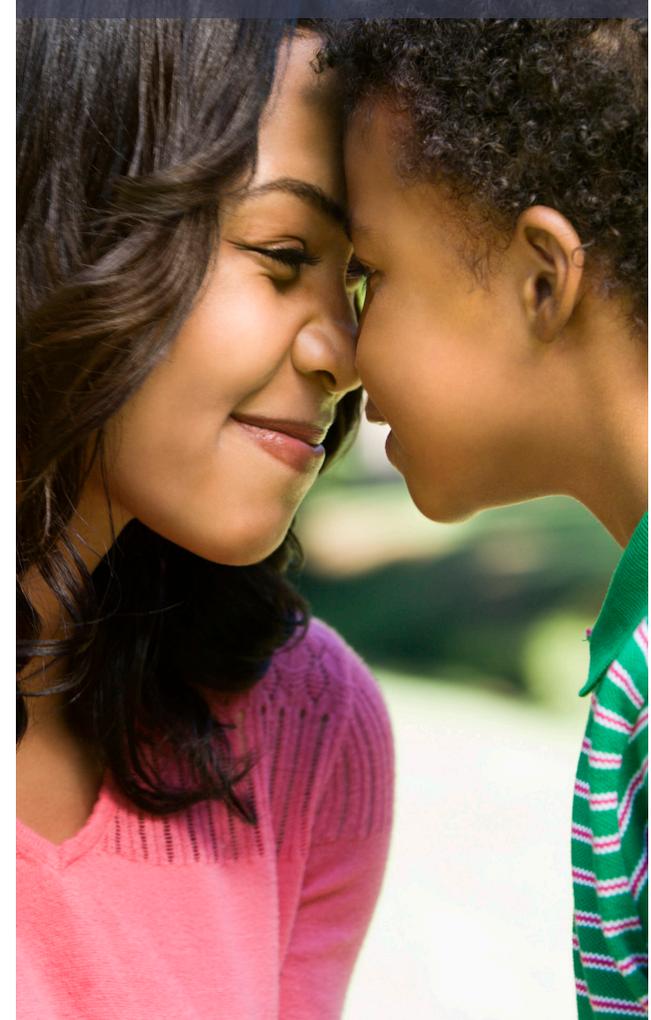
The Allegheny County Department of Human Services provides services to eligible individuals without regard to race, color, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, age, religion, national origin, political affiliation, disability, familial status, military service, or religious, community or social affiliations.

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***Be an involved mom,***

**even while you  
are incarcerated.**

*Your duties as a mom continue when you are incarcerated. It is possible to maintain a meaningful role in your child's life while in jail.*



***Your duties as a mom continue when you are incarcerated.***

It is possible to maintain a meaningful role in your child's life while in jail. You still have many rights and responsibilities, even if your family is active with Children, Youth & Families (CYF).

***While in jail, it is still your responsibility as a parent to:***

- Make regular contact with your child.
  - Though regular contact can be difficult, you need to make an effort to communicate with your child, unless a judge has said you may not. You may be able to have contact visits with your child if you participate in parenting class or have worker status. Be sure your family understands the rules regarding visits. Invite your child to visit you.
- Plan for your child's future.
  - Choose who will care for your child while you are in jail. Work with your jail caseworker to make this official with a power of attorney form.
  - By choosing a caregiver and a safe place for your child, you are avoiding court involvement that could put your parental rights at risk.
- Complete as many programs as you can.
  - You will have a better chance in the future of staying out of jail and living with your child - where you belong - if you take classes such as parenting, anger management and job readiness.

***If your family is involved with CYF, you have the right to:***

- Help to choose an appropriate person to care for your child. CYF must try to first place your child with relatives.
- Know where your child is living and how he or she is doing.
- Know how to reach your caseworker and make contact as much as possible.
- Participate in planning and meetings regarding your Family Service Plan (FSP).
- Help so you can meet your FSP goals.
- Have court ordered contact visits with your child.
- Understand family visiting and other services that can help you build meaningful relationships with your child.
- Be kept up to date on your child's health, development and progress at school.
- Have an attorney or have a Parent Advocate attorney assigned to you and represent you.
- Participate in court hearings in person or by phone. If you cannot participate, you have the right to be informed about all court proceedings.

***If your child is in foster care for an extended period of time, a petition may be filed to terminate your parental rights. Because these decisions are made on a case-by-case basis, it is important that you show that maintaining your relationship with your child is in his or her best interest.***

***If your family is involved with CYF, you have the responsibility to:***

- Make regular contact with your child.
  - You must show the judge you have made an effort to keep in touch with your child to maintain your parental rights.
  - Send letters and cards. Invite your child to visit you. You will receive court-ordered contact visits, unless the judge is concerned for the child's safety.
- Plan for your child's future.
  - Work with your CYF caseworker to determine the best option for your child's placement. Help make educational, medical and treatment decisions for your child.
- Stay in touch with your CYF caseworker and your attorney.
  - You must show that your child's future is your top priority and that you want to be his or her parent when you are released. Advocate for yourself. Be sure you know what is expected of you at all times. If you have trouble reaching your caseworker or attorney, call DHS at 412-350-6610 or the Director's Action Line at 1-800-862-6783 or ask your jail caseworker or parenting teacher to make a referral.

***Your responsibilities***

are continued on the back of this brochure.

