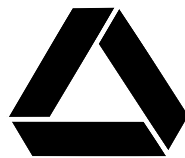


What is CHINS?

The CHINS (Child In Need of Supervision) Intervention Program provides services for youth who are status offenders; i.e., truancy, run-away, and ungovernable. Program goals include preventing further court involvement, reducing problem behaviors, and preventing out-of-home placement.

This program requires active involvement by parents/guardians. Youth and parents/guardians who attend all scheduled sessions and meet program requirements may expect to be released from the CHINS program in 4 – 6 months. Failure to attend all sessions and follow program rules will lengthen the duration of the program and result in further court action.

Parents/Guardians are responsible for court costs and program costs not covered by insurance. Fees for services are discounted based on family income and number of dependents.



**EAST ALABAMA
MENTAL HEALTH-
MENTAL RETARDATION
CENTER**

CHINS

Intervention
Program



A program of East Alabama Mental
Health Center

Lee County

2300 Center Hills Drive
Opelika, AL 36801
334-742-2112

Russell County

3170 Martin Luther King Pkwy
Phenix City, AL 36869
334-298-2405

Truancy

Youth who enter the CHINS program for truancy are referred by schools. The school files the petition with juvenile court and a hearing is held to determine if sufficient evidence exists for the truancy charges. If so, the youth will be adjudicated as CHINS and the parent/guardian will be ordered to complete the CHINS program.

1. CHINS staff will meet with the youth and parent/guardian to complete necessary paperwork and schedule an appointment for an intake.
2. At the intake appointment, a treatment plan will be developed together with the youth and family to identify needed services and treatment goals.
3. School attendance will be monitored and reported to the court.
4. **When the truancy has stopped** and all steps have been successfully completed, CHINS staff will make a written request to the Court to be relieved of supervision. If the Court agrees, the CHINS case will be closed.

Runaway

Youth who are the subject of a CHINS petition for running away are automatically eligible for the CHINS Intervention Program. The following will take place:

1. Parent/guardian must file a runaway petition at Juvenile Court, which will be forwarded to the CHINS program director.
2. The CHINS program director will contact the family and establish a plan for the child upon his/her return. These youth are not placed in detention when picked up by law enforcement or found by parents/guardians.
3. A hearing will be held to adjudicate the youth as CHINS if appropriate. If the youth is adjudicated, the judge orders the child and parent/guardian to complete the CHINS program.
4. The therapist will develop a treatment plan together with the family to identify goals and needed services.
5. Upon successful completion of treatment, CHINS staff will write a letter to the Court asking to be relieved of supervision. If the Court agrees, the CHINS case will be closed.

Ungovernable Behavior

Families are required to provide documentation of involvement in counseling prior to filing a CHINS petition for ungovernable behavior. Once the petition is filed, a court date will be set and the following will take place:

1. The parent/guardian contacts the Lee County or the Russell County CHINS program director to schedule an intake appointment. Both the youth and the parent/guardian will attend the intake appointment.
2. At the intake appointment, a treatment plan will be developed together with the youth and family to identify needed services and treatment goals.
3. At the CHINS hearing, the judge will determine if CHINS adjudication is appropriate, and if so, will order the child and parent/guardian to complete the CHINS program.
4. Upon successful completion of treatment, CHINS staff will write a letter to the Court asking to be relieved of supervision. If the Court agrees, the CHINS case will be closed.

