



New York City Law Department

Introduction to the Family Court Division

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Family Court Division

The Family Court Division promotes the well-being of the City's children and protects the general public.

The Family Court Division consists of two units – the Interstate Child Support Unit and the Juvenile Delinquency Unit.

Interstate Child Support Unit

The Law Department's Interstate Child Support Unit appears in New York City Family Court on behalf of out-of-state custodial parents, who seek to establish paternity/parentage and obtain, modify, or enforce a child support order from a New York City resident.

If the custodial parent lives in New York City and the non-custodial parent resides in another state, the Law Department may be able to assist in filing for a child support order, modifying an existing order, or seeking enforcement of an order. The Law Department may also be able to pursue cases when the non-custodial parent resides in another country.

The Law Dept. Handles Four Types of Child Support Cases:

- 1. Establishment of Paternity and Parentage**
- 2. Establishment of Support**
- 3. Modification of Support**
- 4. Enforcement of Support**

Interstate Child Support Unit
Family Court Division
New York City Law Department
Phone: 212-356-3220

Juvenile Delinquency Unit

The Juvenile Delinquency Prosecution Unit investigates and prosecutes, where appropriate, juvenile delinquency matters that are referred to our office or removed from the Youth Part.

Juvenile Delinquency matters involve youth ages 12 to 17 who have been arrested for conduct that would constitute a crime if they were adults. Youth who have been arrested may also be referred to Diversion programs, which allow the youth to receive rehabilitative services outside of the formal court process. These services may include mentoring, community service, restitution and counseling.

If a Family Court judge finds a youth to be a juvenile delinquent, possible dispositions (sentence) include: conditional discharge, probation, and placement outside of the youth's home.

The state of New York passed the Raise the Age legislation in recognition that youth ages 16 and 17 should no longer be treated as adults. The New York City Law Department Family Court Division was actively involved in this implementation, and remains in full support of Raise the Age.

Raise the Age and Raise the Lower Age

Raise the Age

On October 1, 2018, Raise the Age legislation went into effect for youth 16 years of age and later took effect for youth 17 years of age on October 1, 2019. This means that New York no longer prosecutes 16 and 17 year old youth as adults in the criminal justice system.

All youth under the age of 18 and arrested for a **misdemeanor** are handled in the Family Court. If a youth age 16 or 17 is arrested for a **felony**, the case will begin in the Youth Part and then may be transferred to the Family Court.

The Raise the Age legislation was supported by the understanding that children and adolescents are not the same as adults. The Family Court process allows youth who commit offenses to be held accountable for their actions and receive services that will contribute to their rehabilitation.

Raise the Lower Age

On December 29, 2022, Raise the Lower Age legislation went into effect, establishing a differential response for children under the age of 12.

This change in the law requires social services departments to provide services for youth under the age of 12 who would have otherwise been arrested and charged as a juvenile delinquent and prosecuted in Family Court.

Under this legislation, children are to be supported with proper mental-health care and other services rather than through the juvenile justice system.

- *There are exceptions to this new law for crimes such as homicide and manslaughter.*

Services for Victims/Survivors of Crime

In recognizing the need to provide additional support for the person who was harmed and impacted by juvenile crime, there are Victim Advocates available for all cases. The advocates work with survivors of crime, witnesses, business owners, law enforcement, and anyone else directly affected by the delinquent act (crime). Our advocates coordinate with the prosecutor (ACC) and diversion coordinator to ensure that the concerns of the harmed person are considered at every stage of the process, from investigation, diversion assessment, filing of a juvenile delinquency petition, and at all court proceedings.

The Family Court Division partners with Safe Horizon, the nation's leading non-profit victim assistance, advocacy, and violence prevention organization, to ensure that the concerns of the victim and survivors are recognized. Safe Horizons offers an array of services designed to meet the needs of those impacted by crime.

Some of the services coordinated by Victim Advocates include:

- Safety Assessments
- Court Accompaniment
- Crisis Intervention
- Transportation Assistance

For more information about victim services within your borough, see contact info on page 9.

Court Terminology

Family Court

Prosecutor —
Assistant Corporation
Counsel (ACC)

Heard by a Judge of the
Family Court without a
jury

Youth arrested is referred
to as "Respondent"

Administration for
Children Services Juvenile
Detention Facility

Release Condition or
Remand

Paroled to Parent,
Guardian, or Family
Member

VS. Criminal Court

Prosecutor—
Assistant District
Attorney (ADA)

Heard before a jury of
your peers and Judge

Person arrested is
referred to as
"Defendant"

Department of
Corrections Facility

Bail or Remand
Release Condition

ROR — also known as
Released on
Recognizance

Community Engagement/ Interagency Partnership

An essential part of our practice as the prosecutor on juvenile delinquency cases includes building partnerships with community members in the Bronx, Queens, Staten Island, Brooklyn, and Manhattan. The Law Department collaborates with community stakeholders to prevent juvenile delinquency and promote positive case outcomes. ACCs and community coordinators in the unit are assigned to specific precincts and engage in community outreach efforts, including presentations in schools.

In addition, ACCs and outreach team members collaborate with other community based organizations in order to address juvenile delinquency, promote public safety, and better advocate for victims.

Presentations

Family Court Division staff members present to students, parents, law enforcement, and local organizations on topics related to juvenile delinquency and interstate child support. These interactive presentations provide an overview of the juvenile delinquency system, bullying, social media safety, and helpful tips to make good decisions and to stay safe, online and in our communities.

To request a presentation email FCLaw@law.nyc.gov or scan the QR code here.

To request a presentation
scan below:



Youth Leadership Council

The Youth Leadership Council is part of a city-wide initiative through *New York City Service*, a Division of the Mayor's Office. The council partners with city agencies that offer youth leadership opportunities. The Family Court Youth Leadership Council meets regularly to assist with the development of new policies and practices in both the interstate child support and juvenile delinquency practices.

The program is designed to enhance the educational experience of high school students ages 15 and older, while earning community service credit. Students are given assignments and hear presentations related to the practices of Juvenile Delinquency and Interstate Child Support, learning about the legal practice and public service in New York City.

For more information about involvement with the Youth Leadership Council, visit www.nycservice.org

The Family Court Division promotes the well-being of the City's youth while also protecting the general public.

contact us

Office Locations

Bronx Family Court

900 Sheridan Avenue, 6th Floor Bronx, NY 10451

Phone: (718) 503-5200

Fax: (718) 503-5209

Brooklyn Family Court

350 Jay Street, 9th Floor Brooklyn, NY 11201

Phone: (718) 724-5300

Fax: (718) 724-5399

Manhattan Family Court

60 Lafayette Street Suite 7A3, New York, NY 10013

Phone: (212) 356-1800

Fax: (212) 356-1819

Queens Family Court

151-20 Jamaica Avenue, 2nd Floor Jamaica, NY 11432

Phone: (718) 558-2200

Fax: (718) 558-2208 or (718) 558-2209

Staten Island Family Court

60 Bay Street, 4th Floor Staten Island, NY 10301

Phone: (718) 876-3620

Fax: (718) 876-3628 or (718) 876-3629

Family Court Administration

100 Church Street, 4th Floor New York, NY 10007

Phone: (212) 356-1000



FAMILY COURT DIVISION