



The Program

Family Solutions is an intervention program that program addresses the needs common to youths involved with the South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) and their families. The 10-week program works with parents and their children at the same time. The objective is to enable the parents to work effectively with their children as they embrace positive and pro-social interactions. Additionally, as the parents and youths modify how they relate to each other, adjust the goals and objectives they pursue, and identify the various behavioral patterns they wish to exhibit, the hope is that recidivism (reoccurrence of criminal behavior) will decrease as positive behaviors increase. This was indeed the result in Georgia where *Family Solutions* started and has been functioning for over 10-years. The program is managed by Families4Change.

*“I can talk anything out with my mother.
No conflict or situation is too hard for me
and my mother to handle now.”*

Megan

Who is eligible to participate?

Virtually all first time young offenders are candidates for *Family Solutions* with only two exceptions; violent offenders and active substance abusers (and some sexually oriented offenders). Participants are put through a 45 minute assessment/interview by facilitators and *Families4Change* personnel before they begin the 10 week sequence. Additionally, the parents and youths can be court ordered to attend and complete the sequence or it may be used in a diversionary manner. Historically, *Family Solutions* has concluded with a graduation and a pot-luck supper where the progress and strides made by all are acknowledged.

*“I’m glad I got a chance to get my
act together before it was too late.
I’m thankful for this class.”*

Sonny

Proven Success

DJJ is conducting *Family Solutions* in multiple counties across the state with great success, and working to expand the program so that it is available statewide. Since the success of a *Family Solutions* 10-week sequence is significantly affected by the quality of the presenter, a strong emphasis has been placed on securing facilitators/presenters who have strong interpersonal skills, are energetic, and invested in helping DJJ families. *Family Solutions* has used DJJ personnel as contract employees of *Families4Change* to facilitate most cycles, and intends to continue this approach. However, other persons from the community can serve as facilitators as well.

The presentations of *Family Solutions* across the state have been very well received and it is the hope of DJJ to eventually have this program available in all counties. *Family Solutions* has without a doubt made a real difference in the youth and families it has served!

*“This program has actually helped me
open up to my family more. I can tell
them more things about my life...and
talk to them about my problems.”*

Haley



**For more information please contact your local
DJJ County Office (full listing on back) or:**

Kevin Irmiter, Ph.D., Licensed Psychologist
State Coordinator for Family Services
100 South Main Street, Anderson, SC 29624-1619
Phone: (864) 260-4041 ♦ Email: KIRMIT@scdjj.net

For additional DJJ resources please visit our website:
<http://www.state.sc.us/djj/>

DJJ County Office Directory

Abbeville
864-366-5312

Aiken
803-641-7735

Allendale
803-584-4751

Anderson
864-260-4041

Barnwell
803-259-7114

Bamberg
803-245-5184

Beaufort
843-525-1351

Berkeley
843-761-8194

Charleston
843-740-1649

Cherokee
864-487-2564

Chester
803-377-8104

Chesterfield
843-623-2378

Clarendon
803-435-8587

Colleton
843-549-1509

Darlington
843-393-5641

Dillon
843-774-4147

Dorchester
843-832-4265

Fairfield
803-712-6533

Florence
843-665-3080

Greenville
864-467-5875

Greenwood
864-229-6648

Georgetown
843-546-8723

Hampton
803-943-4296

Horry
843-915-8969

Jasper
843-726-5666

Kershaw
803-432-9171

Lancaster
803-285-9447

Laurens
864-984-2518

Lee
803-484-4550

Lexington
803-359-5526

Marion
843-431-1110

Marlboro
843-479-2961

Newberry
803-276-8243

Oconee
864-638-9537

Orangeburg/Calhoun
803-533-6270

Pickens
864-878-7560

Richland
803-253-4050

Spartanburg
864-562-4200

Sumter
803-778-2368

Union
864-429-1640

Williamsburg
843-355-2772

York
803-909-7500

Tri-Counties
(Edgefield, McCormick, Saluda)
864-445-8138

The South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) is the state cabinet agency responsible for providing custodial care and rehabilitation for the state's children who are incarcerated, on probation or parole, or in community placement for a criminal or status offense. Our mission is to protect the public and reclaim juveniles through prevention, community services, education, and rehabilitative services in the least restrictive environment.