

# FAMILIES IN NEED OF SERVICES (FINS): FAMILIES LEARNING TO HELP THEMSELVES

JANUARY 18, 2024  
12 - 1 PM

REGISTER: VIRTUAL CLE/CEU  
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Title VII of the Louisiana Children’s Code sets forth the Families In Need of Services (FINS) law and process. The Title was presented to the legislature in 1991 in response to the lack of resources and programs intended to prevent child abuse/neglect and delinquency and to strengthen families. There are three main features of the FINS process: the authority of the court to intervene even though the parent has not violated any duty imposed by the Children’s Code and the child is not delinquent; the establishment of a consensual process for the resolution of parent-child disputes under the jurisdiction of the court; and the responsibility of the court to ensure that services provided by public agencies are made available to meet the needs of the family. FINS has both an informal and formal process. We invite you to come learn from a Jefferson Parish Judge and FINS Director about the grounds, referral process, and benefits of FINS.



## Learning Objectives:

- Gain an understanding of Informal and Formal FINS grounds and purpose.
- Learn about the referral process for FINS.
- Be able to identify the FINS office in your jurisdiction.

# AGENDA & SCHEDULE

**12:00-12:30 pm**     **Informal FINS Background, Purpose, Grounds, and Examples**

**12:30-12:50 pm**     **Formal FINS Background, Purpose, Grounds, and Examples**

**12:50-1:00 pm**     **Questions & Discussion**

## SPEAKERS



### **Jonathan Winfrey, Informal FINS Director, Jefferson Parish Juvenile Court**

Mr. Winfrey currently serves as the Director of Jefferson Parish Informal FINS since 2009. Since becoming the director the program, he and his staff has worked tirelessly to reduced the number of children and families going from Informal FINS to Formal FINS. He previously worked for Orleans Parish Informal FINS Department and currently serves on the Louisiana FINS Association Executive Committee. Mr. Winfrey professional and personal life has been geared to helping others. He has worked with children and families for over 16 years in the New Orleans Metropolitan area. He currently serves as the Vice-President of the McCue Athletic Club and is a Volunteer Head Coach of their 9-10 year football team.



### **Hon. Barron C. Burmaster, Chief Judge, Section C, Jefferson Parish Juvenile Court**

Barron C. Burmaster was elected to Section 'C' on November 16, 2013. He attended McDonogh 26 Elementary School, Gretna Middle School, and West Jefferson High School. The Judge served as Student Council President at Gretna and was president of the Class of 1981 at West Jefferson, where he also served as president of the National Honor Society and commander of the Air Force Junior ROTC program. He received a full academic scholarship to attend Loyola University graduating in 1986 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Religious Studies. He then received a full academic scholarship to attend Loyola Law School receiving his Juris Doctorate in 1989. After graduation, Judge Burmaster served as the Criminal Law Clerk for the Judges of 24th District Court until May 1991 when he was appointed an Assistant District Attorney.

The Judge served in the felony, research and appeals and juvenile division where he was Deputy Chief of the Juvenile Division of the D.A.'s office (14 years service in the Juvenile Division). He served as Executive Assistant District Attorney from 2007 to 2013. Also, he was appointed to Governor Jindal's transition team as a member of the Youth Development Panel of the Crime and Public Safety Advisory Council. Judge Burmaster served on the Board of Directors for the Friends of the Jefferson Child Advocacy Center as President, is President of the German American Cultural Center, past President of the Marrero Lions Club, is a past member of the Jefferson CASA Advisory Board, and is a member of the Louisiana Bar Association. Also, he was a member of the Louisiana District Attorney's Association where he has served as Second-Vice President from 2007 to 2013.



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