

What should you know about Court-Ordered Supervision?



What is Court-Ordered Supervision (COS)?

COS means that a family court judge decided that ACS must monitor the safety of your children while you receive support and meet the goals set in court.

What are ACS Prevention Services?

Prevention Services are offered through community-based organizations and help families meet their needs and keep their children safe. Services are free and voluntary and available to all families whether or not there's an open ACS investigation.

ACS: Administration for Children Services

COS: Court-Ordered Supervision

CSC: Child Safety Conference

CPS: Child Protective Specialist

DCP: Division of Child Protection

FCLS: Family Court Legal Services

FSU: Family Service Unit

FTC: Family Team Conference

SCR: State Central Register

WHAT'S ALREADY HAPPENED?

1 ACS INVESTIGATION

A call about child safety was made to the **NY SCR** and then it was sent to ACS.

A CPS from **ACS' DCP** **investigated** the safety concerns for your children and determined that your family needs ongoing monitoring and support from ACS to strengthen the safety of your children.

2 STARTING COS

ACS held a **Child Safety Conference (CSC)** with your family.

ACS determined that the safety concerns were serious enough to file for **COS in Family Court**. Family Court granted COS and identified specific goals that must be met to end COS.

3 STARTING SERVICES

Once COS started, DCP assigned a **FSU Specialist** to support your family.

Your family was referred by DCP or FSU to **free** and **voluntary** prevention services that will support your family.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

Your family will be supported by FSU and Prevention Services to address matters that impact child safety. A Case Planner will work closely with your family to achieve goals related to the court orders.

This Case Planner may confirm your participation in services to the court and give feedback about your participation in services, progress towards goals, and your children's safety.

When **COS ends**, the FSU involvement also ends. Prevention Services may still be available to your family, if you want to continue services.

Who will support you throughout COS?



Case Planners and your family will work together to support family wellbeing. Case Planners can provide referrals and a range of services to meet the needs of your family. They may go by other titles, like counselor, family therapist, or social worker.

They work for community-based organizations, not for ACS.



Parent Advocates & Case Aides can also support your family. They can find community resources, attend meetings with your family, and answer questions. Their availability varies by program. They may go by other titles like Parent Aide or Family Worker.

They work for community-based organizations, not for ACS.



FSU Specialists work for ACS in the Division of Child Protection and support families to achieve goals related to child safety, address needs, promote family well-being and permanency, and refer families to services.



Your Lawyer represents you in court. If you do not have a lawyer and cannot afford to hire one, the court will appoint you one. You have a right to be represented by a lawyer in court.

Who else is supporting your family?

FCLS Lawyer works for ACS. They represent ACS in Family Court to ensure the safety of children. They collect updates from prevention services staff and FSU about families' progress towards goals to provide to Family Court.

Other Caregiver's Lawyer represents your children's other caregiver in court. If they do not have a lawyer or cannot afford to hire one, the court will appoint a lawyer to represent them.

Child(ren)'s Lawyer is assigned by the court to represent the best interests of your children.

Other Support Systems from community-based organizations or ACS may be in place to support your family's specific needs. Some examples of these are homemaking, medical and/or mental health providers, and legal support for immigration concerns.



RISE TIP: "Ask as many questions as it takes to understand your case and your service plan. It's your family's future. If you are still confused, ask for a conference."

RISE is a non-profit organization advocating for and empowering parents involved with ACS. Learn more at [RiseMagazine.org](https://www.risemagazine.org)