



## GET IN TOUCH

**Anne Marie Perine - PSS Director**  
Anne.Perine@RC1.myflorida.com

**Tammy Harris - Program Director**  
Tammy.Harris@RC1.myflorida.com  
850-281-4064

## PARENT SUPPORT SPECIALIST PROGRAM (PSS)

---

OFFICE OF CRIMINAL CONFLICT  
AND CIVIL REGIONAL COUNSEL  
FIRST REGION



## PSS PROGRAM

The Parent Support Specialist (PSS) Program helps support parents through the child welfare system and dependency court process. If you are accepted into the PSS Program you will be assigned a parent advocate who works directly with your court-appointed attorney.

Your parent advocate will support and advocate for you in all non-legal meetings about your family and your dependency case. Your PSS will provide emotional support and guidance as you work to complete your case plan goals.

Our goal is to help increase your protective capacities and remove barriers that prevent you from completing your case plan. We want to help you achieve reunification as quickly and as safely as possible.

If you are accepted into this program, you will be required to maintain contact with your parent advocate and to continue to work on your case plan goals. If you stop doing your part, you can and will be discharged from the PSS program.

## PSS PARTICIPATION

After your emergency shelter hearing, you may receive a call from a member of the PSS team to set up your intake appointment. The intake will last about an hour and can be done over the phone. During the intake appointment, you will discuss visits with your children, where your children will live, and the events that brought your children into DCF's custody. We will go over your personal and criminal history and ask for information about your children (name of their doctor, things they like to do, etc.). We will also discuss voluntary services you can get started on to help move your case forward. Any information that we talk about is bound by attorney-client privilege. That means PSS can only discuss this information with your legal team. After the intake, you will hear back from a team member to let you know if you have been accepted to participate in the PSS Program.

## SERVICE OVERVIEW

### CASE OVERSIGHT

Your parent advocate will assist you through all the stages of the dependency process. For example, your PSS will assist you in getting starting your case plan goals, helping you access services ordered by the court, and staying in contact with you about your progress. Your PSS will help you understand what you need to do and when.

### LINKING TO SERVICES

Your parent advocate can help link you with any services you need to complete your case plan goals to help you reunify with your children as quickly as safely possible.

### ADVOCACY

Your parent advocate will also help assert your rights, advocate for services and visits, and communicate with service providers, your case manager, and other appropriate people regarding your progress on your case plan goals.

### MEETINGS & PROCEEDINGS

Your parent advocate will attend meetings and court hearings, and suggest services to meet your needs and strengthen your family. In addition, your PSS will act as a support person to you by making sure you understand everything that is being asked of you during this entire process.