

## What we are good at!

- Mentoring the youth
- Case Management
- Referring to outside agencies
- Community resources to reduce the likelihood of delinquency
- Impose accountability
- Build competency
- Parent input/involvement
- Matching the need with the right service
- Advocating for our families
- Assist with educational needs
- Truancy

## Who can make referrals?

Our referrals come to us through SCPS Personnel, JAC, CPS, SRDs, Road Deputies, Service Providers, and Parents/Guardians.

## How do I refer my child?

You can refer your child by contacting the YIS Supervisor, Heather Gomes at [hgomes@seminolesheriff.org](mailto:hgomes@seminolesheriff.org) or 407.708.7680.

## For more information, contact:

### YIS Supervisor:

Office: (407) 708-7680

### The YIS is located at:

Seminole County Sheriff's Office  
Youth Services Prevention and  
Enforcement Center

1151 E. 28<sup>th</sup> Street  
Sanford, FL 32773

(407) 708-7640

(Southeast corner of E. 28th Street and  
Mellonville Avenue)

**Business hours are Monday  
through Friday, 8am-5:00 pm**

**Due to the flexible schedules of YIS  
Juvenile Intervention Officer's, it is  
best to call ahead if you desire to  
meet with a specific person.**

# Seminole County Sheriff's Office

## Youth Intervention Services (YIS)



## SCSO Mission:

To enhance the quality of life by reducing crime and the fear of crime throughout Seminole County.

**Tel: (407) 708-7640**



## What is the YIS Vision?

The YIS will use its' unique position to take a leadership role in the efficient use of community resources to reduce the effects of delinquency, impose accountability, and build competency based upon the individual needs of the youth and the community.



## Who is the YIS Community Interventions?

The YIS Services Unit is composed of a Supervisor, Truancy Coordinator, five (5) Juvenile Intervention Officers (JIO) and one (1) Crime Prevention Analyst. They provide a host of services for the at-risk youth population of Seminole County.

The JIO's ensure that the referred youth receive the most appropriate services to effectively and efficiently serve them within their community. This is accomplished through hands on interaction with the families to make sure the necessary services are provided based on the individual needs of the each youth.

## How YIS started

YIS started serving community cases in Seminole County as a pilot program in 2014. According to the Department of Children and Families, 5,283 calls for abuse suspicion were made in Seminole County.

In 2014, there were 2,803 juvenile arrests, 513 of those arrests were for a violent offense (excluding domestic violence) and 235 were for a domestic violence offense. Moreover, 694 juveniles were baker acted, 223 were identified as a victim of domestic or dating violence. 482 juveniles came into contact with law enforcement as runaways, and 2,780 were identified by the school district as truant (having 15 or more absences as defined by the State of Florida).

Due to these numbers, Seminole County implemented a diversion program that reaches out to the youth and the families that are in need of support services.

A vast majority of these youths are in both the dependency and juvenile delinquency system. The youth are considered crossover youths.

History has proven that the youths who do not start receiving prevention services enter the delinquency system. By then, the youth may already be in both systems making it difficult for the youth to get out of either one successfully.

## Who do we serve?

It is suggested that cases referred to YIS for services meet at least two of the listed criteria and are between the ages of 5-17 :

- Mental health
- Substance abuse
- Truancy or Educational needs
- Family dysfunction
- Anti-social personalities
- Poor self-control
- Poor problem-solving skills
- Anti-social associates
- Defiant behavior
- Habitual runaway
- Four (4) or more DCF referrals

