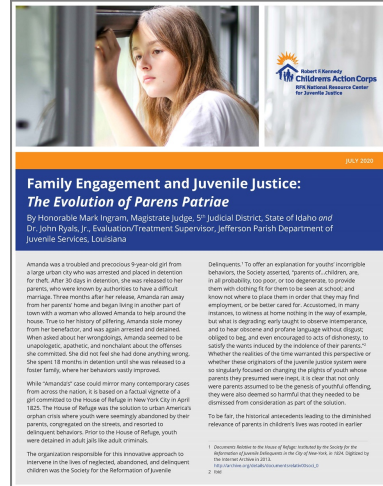


## New Issue Brief on Family Engagement and Involving Parents & Caretakers in Juvenile Justice Decision-Making Processes

The RFK National Resource Center is pleased to announce the availability of *Family Engagement and Juvenile Justice: The Evolution of Parens Patriae*, authored by the Honorable Mark A. Ingram and Dr. John S. Ryals, Jr.

Throughout the history of the juvenile justice system, consideration has been given to how parents and caretakers should—or should not—be involved in addressing the short- and long-term needs of children in the system. *Family Engagement and Juvenile Justice: The Evolution of Parens Patriae* takes a reflective look at systems' engagement with families and the shifting perception of parent and caretaker involvement—which continues to recognize that parents and caretakers play an integral role in effectively serving youth and the community.

This brief describes the continuum of “family voice” and “system voice” decision-making approaches and the inherent impact on youth outcomes, including recidivism. The authors also highlight practices and approaches that improve interactions and effectively engage families, such as Motivational Interviewing and Family Group Decision-Making case planning. The brief articulates the substantial need not to view family engagement as simply one “part” of a case plan, but rather to integrate policies and practices that place families at the center of the service-delivery spectrum.



To access this Issue Brief, please visit: <https://rfknrcjj.org/resources/family-engagement/>.

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### About Us

Robert F. Kennedy National Resource Center for Juvenile Justice, led by Robert F. Kennedy Children's Action Corps, uses proven models, frameworks, tools, resources and the best available research to serve local, state, and national leaders, practitioners, and youth-serving agencies to improve system performance and outcomes for youth involved with the juvenile justice system. RFK National Resource Center focuses primarily on youth with prior or current involvement in both the child welfare and juvenile justice systems (dual status youth), the review and improvement of juvenile probation systems, and the use of a model framework to address the state and national laws and policies governing the exchange and sharing of data, information, and records for youth and families. To learn more about us and how we can serve your jurisdiction, please visit [www.rfknrcjj.org](http://www.rfknrcjj.org).

### Every Child Deserves a Childhood

Robert F. Kennedy Children's Action Corps is a private, non-profit licensed child welfare agency providing community-based services, education, foster care and adoption, residential treatment, and juvenile justice programming to individuals and families in crisis. Our programs are focused on helping children and adolescents deal with past hurts, develop self-esteem, and have a chance for a brighter future as contributing members of society. All that we do at RFK Children's Action Corps is based on the belief that every child deserves the chance to lead a happy, healthy, and productive life. For more information and to get involved, visit [www.rfkchildren.org](http://www.rfkchildren.org).