

Supportive Family: Helping immigrant families whose children have broken the law

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Abstract

Adolescent delinquent behavior, which results in arrest and opening of criminal proceedings, is a stressful situation for his family, which is required to mobilize its resources and cope to restore the family balance. This situation is particularly difficult for immigrant families, due to language barriers, lack of familiarity with the law and absence of social support. This article describes a unique program designed to help immigrant families from the former Soviet Union whose children have broken the law. The program is a joint initiative developed by the Ministry of Absorption, Juvenile Probation Service and the "Immigrant Parents Forum". The program offers comprehensive support to families, including parental guidance and emotional support, as well as promotes cooperation between families and parole officers, and other government institutions. The information presented in this paper is obtained from program internal documentation and interviews with key figures involved in it, namely, the chairwoman of the Immigrant Parents Forum, the program coordinators, the program supervisor, the director of the Juvenile Probation Service, the deputy head of the regional Juvenile Probation Service office in charge of implementing the program, and the regional social worker at the Ministry of Immigrant Absorption.