

# **HOW TO START A CHILD IN NEED OF SERVICES (CHINS) CASE**

The purpose of a CHINS (Child in Need of Services) Petition is to obtain a court order mandating placement of a child in a residence other than the home of his/her parent because a serious conflict exists between the parent and child. The placement is temporary, and the goal is reunification.

This action is taken when the conflict in the home cannot be resolved and reasonable efforts have been made to prevent removal of the child from the parental home.

CHINS petitions may be filed by a child under 18, parent/legal guardian, or the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS).

***To file a CHINS petition with the court, follow these steps:***

## ***Prepare your Petition:***

Call **1-800-557-9671\*** and ask to speak to an Intake Worker. They will set up an appt for you to speak with a Social Worker. The worker will help prepare a CHINS Packet.

- If calling after hours or during holidays, the Intake Officer will take the report and forward it to the appropriate office