

ORGANIZATION BACKGROUND

The Northern California Family Center is a non-profit, licensed Foster Family Agency that has been serving the needs of youth and families for over 43 years. Our staff are dedicated professionals on-call 12 hours a day to provide experienced clinical care and assessment for a wide range of personal and family problems.

RUNAWAY SERVICES:

The Northern California Family Center works with youth, who have run away, have been kicked out, are truant, are out of parental control, or homeless. We provide four services:

- Outreach/Safe Place
- Short-term shelter for youth
- Family Mediation
- Follow-up counseling

We also provide assistance with emancipation and referrals for youth employment. There is no charge for a youth to come into shelter. Our shelter is available for youth up to and including 17 years of age and accessible through our Martinez office. CALL 1-800 718-4357

SAFE PLACE & OUTREACH:

Youth can also access our services through the Safe Place Program. An "SAFE PLACE" logo is displayed; a youth can walk in and request assistance. Look to the Contra Costa Fire District, YMCA, YWCA, County Connection and other local service providers for this logo.



SHORT TERM FOSTER CARE:

During brief shelter, youth, ages 9-17, stay approximately 1-5 days in foster placement with a family. This is intended to act as a voluntary cooling-off period and a time to think about a plan for future living arrangements. There is no charge for short-term placement.

MEDIATION:

The Northern California Family Center counselors work with the youth and their families for reunification, or to develop a mutually agreed upon (sometimes alternative) stable living arrangement. Choices can include agreements to:

- Live at Home
- Live with Extended Family
- Live with Friends of the Family
- Enroll in Job Corps
- Apply for Work & Emancipation
- Combinations of these
- Transfer Guardianship

The Mediation Agreement is usually written and signed. Those who come to short-term shelter are eligible for two free mediation sessions. All others will be charged on a sliding scale.

FOLLOW-UP COUNSELING:

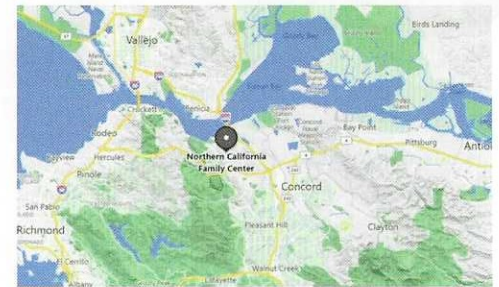
As the youth's living situation is stabilized, there is often a need for the family to learn new and different ways to discuss their feelings and resolve conflicts. We can forward the written Mediation Agreement to the current therapists. We will continue to see those who seek counseling; on a sliding scale. We will also refer families and youth to other providers, who may be geographically closer to the family.

COMMENTS:

"My parents and I got to the point that we were so angry we just couldn't talk; so I ran away. My counselor at school gave me Northern California Family Center's number..." Runaway, age 14.

"I've never really been able to talk much with my dad. The Northern California Family Center counselors helped me sit down and talk about my feelings without getting angry." Runaway, age 16.

LOCATION:



We are located at 2244 Pacheco Blvd. Martinez. Go north on Highway 680 2 1/2 miles past Highway 4 and then take the Pacheco Blvd. Exit 54. Go another 2 and 2/10 miles. We are on the left (south) side of the street next to the Cinco De Mayo restaurant. Going south on 680 take Marina Vista Exit 56. Turn left on Marina Vista, Left on Shell Ave. then right on Pacheco Blvd.



2244 Pacheco Blvd.
Martinez, CA 94553-1968
925.370.1990