

Running Away Syllabus

Introduction

Expert – Dr. Richard Delaney, psychologist

This course explores the five most common motivations for running away and offers tips for ending the running.

Searching for Roots

15-year-old Samuel, a foster child, regularly runs away to his maternal grandmother's home even when things are going great at his foster home.

- Running to reconnect with kin
- Strategies for helping the child cope with the loss of kin
- Facilitating arranged visits with kin

Running from Rules

Paul, 14, is in foster care with his aunt and uncle. He is angry a lot and hates being told anything by anyone. He runs away often.

- Anger and defiance beyond normal teen rebellion
- Possible need for mental health evaluation
- Useful ideas for coping

Running from Love and Intimacy

Trina, 12, runs away from her single foster mother when they are getting along well and really enjoying life together.

- The role of multiple placements
- Fear of getting attached
- Steps for coping

Wanting to be Wanted

Chico, 11, bolts from his foster parents and hides, even when they are out in public. He's very close to his foster parents, to the point of being unusually clingy and needy for his age. He and his brother are on track to be adopted by their foster parents.

- Negative attention seeking
- Desire to be chased after, claimed
- Feeling of invisibility when not receiving undivided attention
- How to help

Running to Street Crime

Sixteen-year-old Carla runs away to the big city, where she prostitutes herself and uses the money to buy drugs. The police arrest her, she's sent back into care, and it's only a matter of time before she runs again.

- Get professional help
- Consider residential treatment