

Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP) Desk Guide



What is a QRTP?

A QRTP (qualified residential treatment program) is a congregate care facility (residential treatment center, group home, or shelter care facility) that meets specific criteria to receive a certification known as a QRTP.

Trauma Informed Treatment Model

Nursing

Family Participation

Accreditation



Trauma Informed Treatment Model

A QRTP shall provide services according to a trauma-informed treatment model that is designed to meet the needs, including clinical needs as appropriate, of children with serious emotional and behavioral disorders or disturbances and is able to implement the treatment identified for a specific child by a standardized assessment

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Nursing

A QRTP shall have registered nurse or licensed practical nurse staff and other clinical staff who:

- (A) provide care within the scope of their practice as defined by state law;
- (B) are on-site according to the facility's trauma-informed treatment model
- (C) are available 24 hours a day and 7 days a week.

To fulfill part C of this requirement, QRTPs have access to a 24/7 nurse telehealth line to fulfill this requirement:

1-833-763-2001



Trauma Informed
Treatment Model

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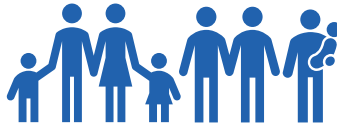
Accreditation

Family Participation

A QRTP shall facilitate family participation in each child's treatment program to the extent appropriate and in accordance with the child's best interest, consistent with the child's permanency plan. **For an Indian child:** the "family" of an Indian child includes the child's extended family members, as defined by WICWA, others identified in accordance to tribal law or custom, and, if applicable, the child's Indian custodian.

A QRTP shall have policies and procedures on family participation in a child's treatment program that specify how to do all the following:

1. Facilitate outreach to the child's family members, including siblings, and document how the outreach is done.
2. Maintain contact information for any known relatives and like-kin of the child.
3. Facilitate participation of the child's family members in the child's treatment program.
4. Document how the child's family members are integrated into the child's treatment program, including after the child's discharge from the QRTP.
5. Document how the child's connections with siblings are maintained.



Accreditation



The QRTP facility shall be nationally accredited by any of the following independent, not-for-profit organizations:

1. The Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF);
2. The Joint Commission (JC);
3. The Council on Accreditation (COA); or
4. Any other independent, not-for-profit accrediting organization approved by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Child Welfare Practice Implications

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Family Permanency Teams

If a child is placed in a setting certified as a QRTP, the agency with placement and care responsibility is required to assemble a **family permanency team** for the child. If the child or youth is an Indian child, the tribal caseworker must be invited to participate in the family permanency team. Family permanency teams, consisting of family members, professionals, and others who are a resource for the child, participate in the assessment and placement decision-making process, as well as permanency planning.

The initial family permanency team meeting may be held prior to a child or youth's placement in a QRTP, but no greater than 30 days after the date of placement in the QRTP. The team meetings shall be held at a time and place convenient for the family to the extent possible.

Members of Family Permanency Teams



Child Welfare Practice Implications

Judicial Process and eWiSACWIS Requirements

When a child is placed in a certified QRTP, the following elements are required under Chapters 48 and 938 in conjunction with the Ongoing Services Standards. Comply with the placement and court finding requirements if the child is placed in a facility certified as a QRTP.

- Complete a Temporary Physical Custody Request (Chapter 48) JC-1608 or JC-1710 (Chapter 938) form, including checking the box located on page 2, that ‘the placement is certified as a QRTP.’
- Complete a Child Adolescent Needs & Strengths assessment in eWiSACWIS within 30 days from the date of placement in a QRTP. For an Indian child, the agency must invite the tribal caseworker to assist with any assessing and planning. The initial determination of a child’s level of need shall be made no more than 30 days prior to placement in a group home or residential care center, unless the placement is completed on an emergency basis.

To assist in making placement decisions, caseworkers should reference the Placement Complexity Chart.

Placement Complexity Chart

		Placement Options		
Child’s Level of Need	Provider’s Level of Care	Foster Home	Group Home	Residential Care Center
1/2	1	Child-Specific		
	2	Basic		
3	3	Moderate Treatment	Group Home	
4	4	Specialized Treatment		
5	5	Exceptional Treatment		Residential Care Center
6	6			

Note: A child in foster care can be served by a foster home with a certification lower than the child’s level of need if an exception has been granted and documented in the child’s electronic case record by the placing agency and the agency shows what services and supports will be provided to meet the child’s needs.

	Step-down level to be used for transition planning to a less restrictive placement setting.
	Placement of children at this level is not appropriate.

Child Welfare Practice Implications

Judicial Process and eWiSACWIS Requirements continued...

- Complete a Permanency Plan and Permanency Plan Addendum in eWiSACWIS within 60 days of placement in a QRTP. **For an Indian child, the agency must invite the tribal caseworker to assist with assessing and planning.*
- Submit the CANS, Permanency Plan, Permanency Plan Addendum and Court Report to the court or administrative body designated to consider the matter of out-of-home placement of a child within your jurisdiction.
- Within 60 days of placement in a QRTP, the court or administrative body designated by the court must consider the CANS assessment, determine whether the needs of the child can be met in a foster family home, and if not, whether the QRTP provides the most effective and appropriate level of care in the least restrictive environment, and the placement in a QRTP is consistent with the goals for the child, as specified in the permanency plan. The request for the court's review and finding must follow the procedures and notice requirements set forth in statutes, Chs. 48 and 938, Stats.

Change of Placement

If a child requires a change of placement to a certified QRTP facility, a *Notice of Change in Placement JD-1754* must be completed and submitted to the court or administrative body within your jurisdiction by:

- checking the box indicating 'the placement is certified as a QRTP, and whether a standardized assessment 'is attached' or 'will be submitted by ____' and,
- if applicable, 'there is good cause for submitting the assessment and recommendation more than 10 days from the date of this notice.'



Important

Whenever a change in placement of a child occurs – a child moves from one certified QRTP to another certified QRTP – the Permanency Plan Addendum for Placement in a Setting Certified as a QRTP must be completed and court requirements and findings must be made. All children who are placed in a facility prior to 09/29/2021 are exempt from QRTP court findings.

Child Welfare Practice Implications

Continued QRTP Placement and Extended Placements

- Placement of children and youth in facilities certified as a QRTP must be continually assessed for the duration of the child or youth's placement to determine the ongoing appropriateness of the placement setting.
- Placements in QRTPs should only continue to be utilized when the child's level of need justifies placement in a more restrictive setting and when children cannot receive the appropriate services in the home of their parent, guardian, Indian custodian, or another home-like setting.
- The agency with placement and care responsibility must assess and determine if continued placement in a QRTP is the most appropriate level of care for the child or if the child's needs can be met through placement in a less restrictive setting.

Key Points

The head of the agency must provide approval for ongoing placement.

Who does this apply to? Any child or youth...

...who is placed in a QRTP for more than 12 consecutive months or 18 nonconsecutive months.

...aged 13 or younger, placed more than 6 consecutive or nonconsecutive months.

A lack or shortage of available placements in a less restrictive setting is not an acceptable reason to allow for the extended QRTP placement.

Family-based Aftercare Support Services and Discharge Planning of Youth in a QRTP

The most important part of post-discharge services is assuring a smooth transition for the youth with no gaps in service. Best practices in discharge and family-based aftercare support planning includes a close partnership between the facility and the placing agency, the youth, the youth's family/like-kin, tribe and Indian custodian, and any other treatment providers involved in the youth's service provision

Under federal FFPSA, a QRTP must provide discharge planning and family-based aftercare support for a minimum of 6 months post-discharge of a youth from a program. Not all youth will require the same services. The choice of services selected are determined by the youth's needs, where they are discharging to, and availability of services in the community or subsequent placement.