

Post-Reunification Support Program

Referrals and Flexibility on the Planned Reunification Date:

Assessment and decision-making preceding a child's safe reunification with his or her family involves a complex casework and legal process. Counties may refer children for participation in the P.S. Program up to 60 days in advance of the planned reunification date, and counties use the planned reunification date to determine the Re-entry Prevention Model (RPM) score to determine eligibility. However, the planned reunification date is not binding and there may be changes to that date due to factors such as the family's circumstances, availability of essential services, or the availability of the courts to review and approve the plan.

If there is a significant change to the planned reunification date this may impact timeframes for the program requirements, such as the CANS and the family team meeting. The ability to plan for program participation with families and providers also requires retaining the approval for program eligibility even though the total number of days in care prior to reunification may vary. When referring children to participate county agencies are encouraged to consider the planned reunification date as a goal; however, case circumstances may result in variation from that date.

P.S. Program policy is designed to allow counties to lock in an RPM score based on the planned reunification date while providing reasonable flexibility around the reunification date.

- If the reunification occurs up to 14 days before or after the planned date, counties may use the original planned date to define the timeframes for program requirements.
- If the reunification occurs between 15-30 days before or after the planned date, then the county must describe the reasons for the change in the reunification date to the DCF P.S. Program Coordinator in order to retain the approval for the referral.
- If the reunification does not occur within 30 days after the planned reunification date, then a new referral must be submitted with a new planned reunification date and a re-calculated RPM score based on the new date.