



## FFPSA - Answers to Questions from Live Training

**What IV-E prevention services will be offered due to implementation of the FFPSA?**

The Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) has plans for implementing the necessary changes to meet federal requirements for prevention candidates and placement prevention services. Contact DHS at [dhs.csp.safety@state.mn.us](mailto:dhs.csp.safety@state.mn.us) with questions, and refer to their [FFPSA Prevention Services FAQ](#) for more information.

**If a child is not IV-E eligible but placed in a Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP) setting, do all of the FFPSA requirements for a Qualified Individual (QI) Assessment and court reviews apply?**

Yes. When the county has the responsibility of placement and recommends a QRTP, the QI Assessment and court reviews are required regardless of a child's IV-E eligibility.

**Do the FFPSA court review requirements apply to residential assessments (sometimes called "30-day assessments") where a child is placed at a residential facility for 30 days to see if the facility is a good fit for the child?**

Yes. The statute does not carve out an exception for placement in a QRTP on a trial basis. When an agency places a child in a QRTP, regardless of the intention of the agency at the time of placement or length of placement, the QRTP placement provisions apply.

**Where is the assessment tool that will be used by the QI?**

The QRTP assessment tool is on eDocs, [DHS 8097](#). Contact DHS at [dhs.csp.fostercare@state.mn.us](mailto:dhs.csp.fostercare@state.mn.us) with questions.

**Is the FFPSA designed to get services to children who end up at hospital emergency rooms because their parents can't get help elsewhere? Will agencies take more of these cases than they have in the past?**

The goal of the FFPSA is to connect families with resources earlier in the process to avoid crisis and separation from family. Nothing in the FFPSA is intended to prevent agencies from making immediate placements for children and youth who are in crisis and in need of emergency treatment.

**At the initial QRTP court review, will a GAL or attorney be appointed for the child or family?**

Not unless one is otherwise requested and/or required by law.

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**What happens if the lesser restrictive placement options are unavailable due to long waiting lists or will not accept a child due to history of running, suicidal ideation, or violence?**

Each judicial officer will have to make their own individual determination of whether the proposed placement is in the child's best interests, given the individual needs of the child and restrictiveness of the setting. A child should not be placed in a QRTP solely because another option is not available.

**Are out-of-state Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities (PRTFs) considered QRTPs?**

Each state's implementation of the FFPSA will vary based on their child welfare practice and services. An Interstate Compact Placement request and approval (ICPC) is required for placements in other states. Contact DHS at [mn.icpc@state.mn.us](mailto:mn.icpc@state.mn.us) with questions.

**Is the state doing anything to increase the number of less restrictive placement settings or family-like options?**

The intent of the FFPSA is to be transformational over time. Child welfare agencies will need to engage with relatives and recruit non-relative foster family homes to meet the needs of children and support access to in-home services to prevent residential placement. The FFPSA also implements new placement settings such as those specific to older youth, pregnant and parenting youth, and youth who are victims or at-risk of becoming victims of sex trafficking. These specialized settings present additional options that could be considered more appropriate for a child, depending on the facts of a case.

**If a judicial officer disapproves the QRTP placement, how quickly must the child be moved into a new placement?**

The child must be moved within 30 days of the court's decision.

**Is there a process for families to appeal a judicial officer's order regarding a QRTP placement?**

Yes. The same appeal rights exist for challenging a QRTP placement as with any other time the court makes a final determination.