



Tennessee Department of Children's Services

Protocol for Placing Children in a Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP)

Supplemental to DCS Policy: [16.46, Child/Youth Referral and Placement](#)

A QRTP placement is a specific category of a non-foster family home setting, for which DCS must meet detailed assessment, case planning, documentation, judicial determinations and ongoing review and permanency hearing requirements for a child to be placed in and continue to receive title IV-E Foster care maintenance payments for the placement.

This protocol applies to all children/youth placed in a QRTP setting within the first 30 days of entering custody prior to IV-E eligibility determination. After the first 30 days of custody, this protocol only applies to children/youth determined to be IV-E eligible being placed in a QRTP setting.

A. 30 day assessment by a qualified individual:

1. The responsible case manager completes a CANS according to the CANS Case Protocol in Chapter 31- Regional and Field Services Operations.
2. For placement in a QRTP, a child's/youth's CANS must be reviewed and approved by a COE Assessment Consultant within 30 days of placement in the QRTP.
 - a) The CANS assessment can be initiated prior to the placement in the QRTP, but must be approved by a COE Assessment Consultant no later than the end of the 30-day period.
 - b) The CANS assessment must be completed in conjunction with the Child and Family Team, including the youth's family and the COE Assessment Consultant.
 - c) The Child and Family Team will determine what type of placement is least restrictive and most appropriate to meet the needs of the child/youth.
 - d) If the needs identified on the CANS indicate and the Child and Family Team finds that placement in a foster home is not appropriate, the COE Assessment Consultant will document why the child/youth's needs cannot be met in a foster home setting and why the QRTP will provide the most appropriate care and how the chosen QRTP placement is the most consistent with the child/youth's short and long term Permanency Plan goals.

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B. 60 day court review:

1. Within 60 days of the start of each placement in a QRTP the placement must be reviewed by the court. The court must consider:
 - The CANS assessment;
 - The child's Permanency Plan goals;
 - The Child and Family Team's determination that the child/youth's needs cannot be met in any less restrictive environment than a QRTP; and
 - The COE Assessment Consultant's documented approval of the placement in a QRTP.
2. After the court review, the court must document the agreement or disagreement with the QRTP placement.

C. Commissioner's Review of long-term QRTP placements:

1. Placement in a QRTP must be reviewed by the Commissioner when:
 - Children/youth 13 and over are placed in a QRTP for more than 12 consecutive months or 18 nonconsecutive months; or
 - Children/youth under 13 are placed in a QRTP for more than six consecutive or nonconsecutive months.

2. The case file must include for review:

The most recent evidence/documentation of evidence to support the placement submitted at each status review and permanency hearing, such as:

- CANS assessments to support continued placement in a QRTP;
- Documentation of treatment or service needs;

- Preparations being made for the child/youth's return home or other less restrictive placement; and

- Signed approval by the Commissioner for the continued placement of the child/youth in that setting.

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