

Family First Infosheet

Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP) Discharge Planning

Summary

As outlined in OAC [5101:2-9-42](#) for ODJFS certified agencies or OAC [5122-30-32](#) or [5122-29-09.1](#) for OhioMHAS Agencies, to meet the standards of a QRTP in Ohio, a residential treatment facility shall implement discharge planning that involves the family and/or custodial agency and begins at the time the youth is admitted into the QRTP and through the time of final discharge from the placement.

The discharge plan is to:

1. Include planning for aftercare services for all youth discharged from the facility to family-based settings including:
 - o (a) Reunification with family, (b) Pre-finalized adoptive family, (c) Kinship care, (d) Foster care, and (e) Independent living.
2. Begin in partnership with the legal custodian and/or custodial agency no later than the next business day after a youth is admitted to the QRTP.
3. Be reviewed by the QRTP no less than every thirty days and during every service plan review.

Purpose

The purpose of discharge planning is to reduce the length of residential stay as well as unplanned readmission to a residential care setting. The goal is to improve the coordination of services following discharge from residential care. (i.e. aftercare services)

Additional Considerations

- Discharge planning is a critical component of a residential treatment program that helps children and their families prepare to navigate the ups and downs of a life outside of a residential care setting. A detailed and organized discharge plan can provide both stability for the child after he/she leaves the residential care setting entering and peace of mind for their families.
- The discharge plan must be reviewed and updated (as needed) at least every 30 days allowing all relevant parties (i.e. youth, family, custodian, treatment team) an opportunity to provide feedback to make sure that the individuals that will be responsible for ensuring that the discharge plan activities are successfully implemented are involved in the discussion.
 - o Feedback from relevant parties does not have to be a formalized in-person meeting, as long as there is a mechanism for the individuals to provide feedback/insight about the discharge plan prior to the monthly discharge review/updates

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- For example, if the plan is the youth will be discharged to a relative, the relative should be in the discussions early on and regularly to ensure any barriers are identified early, so they can be addressed and it does not delay the youth's discharge. We also know there are times when the custodial agency conveys a discharge plan at admission but that changes over the course of the youth's placement, based on the family's needs.
- The Q RTP should provide written documentation to all participants with information on accessing additional supports and services from the Q RTP and the community providers. This documentation should include contact information and steps to access each provider.
- All information gathered during Discharge Planning discussions and entered Residential Treatment Information System (RTIS) will populate on the RTIS generated Discharge Plan/Summary.

For additional information about Family First or Q RTP Requirements, please visit the Family First webpage: <https://jfs.ohio.gov/ocf/Family-First.stm>