

Foster Care

The Minnesota Department of Children, Youth, and Families, Family Support and Placement Services Unit offers support and guidance on policy and practice about case and permanency planning, recruitment and retention of foster homes, relative search and placement, placement decisions, Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS)/entry of placement, Northstar Care for Children foster care maintenance payments and clothing allowance and caseworker visits with foster children, their parents and foster families.

How to contact us

Foster care policy and practice: dhs.csp.fostercare@state.mn.us

Qualified Residential Treatment Programs (QRTPs) or Qualified Individuals (QIs): ffpsa.qualifiedindividual.DHS@state.mn.us

Foster care licensing: dhs.fostercarelicensing@state.mn.us

Adoption, kinship and permanency: northstar.benefits@state.mn.us

Introducing Foster Care Community of Practice meetings

Beginning in October 2024, the Foster Care team will be hosting Community of Practice meetings. These virtual meetings will be held quarterly in January, April, July and October. Meetings will be on the last week of the month on Tuesday and Thursday. Registration and additional details of these meetings will be sent the month prior via [GovDelivery](#). Information provided at the meetings will be shared on the Community of Practice webpage.

The goals of the Foster Care Community of Practice meetings are to:

- Provide a space for Tribal and county workers to share their knowledge and engage in meaningful discussion on various topics pertaining to child welfare
- Deliver sessions that are useful for attendees, and provide them with support to develop and enhance their upstanding of child welfare practice
- Engage Tribal and county workers to develop ongoing foster care placement and permanency discussion topics that support outcomes for children and families.

Minnesota Rules and Statutes pertaining to foster care

[Minnesota Statutes 260](#) – Juvenile Court, Child Placement, Compacts

- Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 260 includes statutes pertaining to: placement prevention, Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC) and the Minnesota Indian Family Preservation Act (MIFPA).

[Minnesota Statutes 260C](#) – Juvenile Safety and Placement

- Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 260C includes statutes pertaining to: Sibling Bill of Rights, jurisdiction, Safe Place for Newborns, emergency removal, out-of-home placement plans (OHPP), recruitment of foster families, relative search and engagement, concurrent permanency planning, voluntary foster care, permanency proceedings, adoption and Qualified Residential Treatment Programs (QRTPs).

[Minnesota Statutes 260D](#) – Child in Voluntary Foster Care for Treatment

[Minnesota Statutes 245A.035](#) – Unlicensed Emergency Relative Placement

[Minnesota Statutes 256N](#) – Northstar Care for Children

[Minnesota Rules 9560](#) – Social Services for Children

Practice Guides and Additional Resources

Foster care and case planning

- [Concurrent Permanency Planning Practice Guide \(DHS-4778\)](#)
- [Child and Family Visitation Practice Guide \(DHS-5552\)](#)
- [Minnesota Assessment of Parenting for Children and Youth \(MAPCY\) Practice Guide \(DHS-7060\)](#)
- [Initial Foster Care Phone Calls: Practice Guide for Social Services Agencies \(DHS-7295A\)](#)
- [Initial Foster Care Phone Calls: Information for Parent, Foster Parents and Facility Staff \(DHS-7295B\)](#)
- [Quality child care and early education for children involved with child welfare services \(DHS-7353A\)](#)

- [Minnesota's Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard Guidance \(DHS-7684\)](#)
- [Children in Foster Care Relative Visitation and Alternative Care Guidelines \(DHS-7830A\)](#)
- [Caseworker and Child Visits Best Practice Guide \(DHS-7987\)](#)
- [Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System \(AFCARS\) Social Service Information System \(SSIS\) Placement Guide \(DHS-8119C\)](#)

Foster parents

- [A guide to court proceedings for foster parents \(DHS-8016\)](#)
- [Children in Foster Care: Babysitting Guidelines \(DHS-7830\)](#)
- [Minnesota Child Foster Care Licensing Guidelines \(DHS-8517\)](#)

Relative search and engagement

- [Child foster care notice to relatives \(DHS-3799\)](#)
- [Basics for relatives of foster children \(DHS-3799A\)](#)
- [Practice Guide on Relative Search, Notice, Engagement and Placement Consideration for Children in Foster Care \(DHS-3799D\)](#)
- [Unlicensed Emergency Relative Placement Practice Guide \(DHS-3799E\)](#)

Permanency

- [Child foster care notice to relatives: Permanency \(DHS-3799B\)](#)
- [Northstar Care for Children Practice Guide \(DHS-7024\)](#)
- [Paths to Permanency – Adoption for Children in Foster Care \(DHS-7024A\)](#)
- [Paths to Permanency – Transfer of Permanent Legal and Physical Custody \(DHS-7024B\)](#)
- [Finding Permanency for Children in Foster Care: Transfer of Permanent Legal and Physical Custody to a Relative \(DHS-7591\)](#)

Working with adolescents and youth in foster care

- [Helping Youth Transition from Out-of-home Care to Adulthood \(DHS-6530\)](#)
- [Extended Foster Care Practice Guide for Youth Ages 18 up to 21 \(DHS-7591A\)](#)
- [Medical Assistance Benefits for Former Foster Care Youth \(DHS-7678\)](#)
- [Best Practice for Responding to Youth Who Run Away from Foster Care \(DHS-8015\)](#)
- [Expectant and Parenting Youth in Foster Care Practice Guide \(DHS-8119B\)](#)
- [Practice Guide for Caseworkers, Foster Parents and Facility Staff: Working with gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer/questioning and two-spirit youth in the child welfare system \(DHS-6500\)](#)

Qualified Residential Treatment Programs (QRTPs) and Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA)

- [QRTP Assessment Flow Chart](#)
- [Qualified Individual Practice Guide: Standards for Qualified Residential Treatment Program Assessment](#)
- [FFPSA Specialized Residential Settings Overview and Decision Chart: Youth who experienced, or at risk of sex trafficking or commercial sexual exploitation \(DHS-8119A\)](#)
- [Juvenile Treatment Screening Team Practice Guide \(DHS-8120A\)](#)
- [Family and Permanency Team for Placements in a Qualified Residential Treatment Program Practice Guide \(DHS-8120B\)](#)
- [Qualified Residential Treatment Programs \(QRTP\): A Guide for Families \(DHS-8442\)](#)

GovDelivery communications

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Bulletins

To sign up for bulletins or view all available bulletins, visit the [Minnesota Department of Human Services webpage](#).

- [Clarifying When Disability Waiver Community Residential Services are Foster Care Placements for Children and Youth \(Bulletin #24-68-05\)](#)
- [Program Information and Allocations for Adolescent Independent Living Skills \(Bulletin #24-68-07\)](#)
- [Program Information and Application for Adolescent Independent Living Skills Funding \(Bulletin #23-68-03\)](#)
- [Extended Foster Care Best Practice Guide \(Bulletin #23-68-11\)](#)
- [Practice Guide on Relative Search, Notice, Engagement and Placement Considerations for Foster Care Children \(Bulletin 23-68-12\)](#)
- [Revised Federal Requirements for Responding to Children and Youth Missing from Foster Care \(Bulletin #23-68-14\)](#)

- [Program Changes and Allocations for Adolescent Independent Living Skills \(Bulletin #22-68-08\)](#)
- [Corrected #22-68-09: Extended Qualified Residential Treatment Program \(QRTP\) Placement Reviews \(Bulletin #22-68-09C\)](#)
- [Guidance for the National Youth in Transition Database \(NYTD\) \(Bulletin #22-68-10\)](#)