

	INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES CHILD WELFARE POLICY	
	Chapter 8: Out-of-Home Services Section 53: Out-of-State Residential Treatment Review and Approval	
	Effective Date: January 1, 2026	Version: 2

POLICY OVERVIEW

Residential treatment should only be used when a child really needs it. Before a child can go to a residential treatment program in another state, the plan must be reviewed and approved. This makes sure the child stays safe, stable, and well during this short-term service.

POLICY STATEMENT

Out-of-state residential treatment can be considered when it is best for the child and all in-state options have been tried or are not appropriate.

Note: Facilities in other states that already have an active contract with DCS should be considered first. DCS will not approve a child's admission to an out-of-state treatment program without a fully executed contract, unless the DCS Agency Director makes an exception.

LEGAL REFERENCES

- [42 USC 672: Foster care maintenance payments program](#)