

	INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES CHILD WELFARE POLICY	
Chapter 17: Residential Licensing Section 03: Verification of Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP)		
	Effective Date: January 1, 2026	Version: 3

POLICY OVERVIEW

The Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) sets rules for residential treatment programs to be called a Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP). The Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) works with these programs to make sure they meet the rules. This helps improve care for children with clinical needs.

POLICY STATEMENT

DCS will verify the following types of residential treatment facilities meet the QRTP rules for each program offered:

- Child Caring Institution (CCI) (private or public);
- Group Home (GH); and
- Private Secure Facility (PSF).

DCS will not give QRTP status to the following programs:

- Diagnostic programs;
- Emergency Shelter Care (ESC);
- Teen Mom and Baby Programs;
- Independent Living (IL) programs for youth 18 years of age and older; and
- Programs specifically for victims of Human Trafficking.

To be a QRTP, a program must:

- Use a trauma-informed treatment for children with serious emotional or behavior needs;
- Provide treatment based on the child's needs (based on assessments);
- Have policies that reflect the trauma-informed treatment model;
- Demonstrates the defined treatment model and policies in the treatment of the children;
- Have registered or licensed nurses and licensed clinical staff on site to:
 - Provide care within the scope of their practice as defined by State law,
 - Provide care on-site according to the treatment model referred to above, and
 - Provide care 24 hours a day and seven (7) days a week.
- Support the facilitation and participation of family in the child's treatment, when it is in the child's best interest;
- Reach out to the family members of the child (including siblings) and document how the contact is made (including contact information);
- Maintain contact information for any known biological family and fictive kin;
- Document how family members are included in the treatment plan, including post-discharge, and how sibling connections are maintained;

- Plan for discharge and family-based aftercare support for at least six (6) months post-discharge;
- Has an active CCI, PSF, or GH license by the state of Indiana; and
- Be accredited by any of the following independent, not-for-profit organizations:
 - The Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF),
 - The Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO),
 - The Council on Accreditation (COA),
 - Educational Assessment Guidelines Leading toward Excellence (EAGLE),
 - Teaching Family Association, or
 - Any other independent, not-for-profit accrediting organization approved by the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS).

LEGAL REFERENCES

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