

# FOR YOUR INFORMATION

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Issue 19-09

Date: 03/12/19

## EMERGENCY PLACEMENT OF A CHILD/YOUTH/NONMINOR DEPENDENT (NMD) IN A SHORT-TERM RESIDENTIAL THERAPEUTIC PROGRAM (STRTP)

This FYI serves to inform staff of the process for conducting an emergency placement of a child/youth/NMD in an STRTP until policy revisions can be made.

### **Background**

Emergency placement services is an optional component of the STRTP placement process. An emergency placement may occur when a child, youth or NMD is believed to meet STRTP criteria and requires immediate placement and there is not enough time to hold an Interagency Placement Committee (IPC) screening. Once an IPC screening is held and an authorization for placement in an STRTP is received, the placement is no longer considered an emergency placement.

Emergency placements are not limited to thirty (30) days. In some instances, the IPC or STRTP may determine that continued placement in the STRTP is not appropriate. If this occurs, the child/youth/NMD may remain in the placement for the amount of time necessary to identify and transition the child/youth/NMD to an alternative, suitable placement.

The emergency placement process differs from the [non-emergency and expedited screenings processes](#) in that placement occurs prior to an IPC screening.

### **Emergency Placement Referral Process**

Children twelve (12) years of age and under are not eligible for emergency placement in an STRTP.

On rare occasions, a CSW may need to place a child/youth/NMD in an STRTP on an emergency basis upon consultation and approval by their SCSW, ARA, and RA or respective designees prior to an IPC screening. Regional staff shall follow the guidelines for emergency placements established by the [Screening and Placement of Children, Youth, and Nonminor Dependents \(NMDs\) in a Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Program \(STRTP\) \(0600-151.11\) policy](#) to determine if the child/youth/NMD requires an emergency placement in an STRTP.

Emergency placement referrals shall be sent utilizing the STRTP Emergency Placement referral form ([DCFS 6090](#)) to the Emergency Placement Unit (EPU) at [DCFSEPU@dcfs.lacounty.gov](mailto:DCFSEPU@dcfs.lacounty.gov). An Emergency Placement Coordinator will be assigned to secure and facilitate the placement. The CSW or other regional staff may not call an STRTP directly to place a child as an emergency placement.

On-Call EPU or the Emergency Response Command Post (ERCP) staff will be available afterhours to



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process emergency placement referrals seven (7) days a week, 24 hours per day. However, the STRTP's intake paperwork and orienting the child/youth/NMD processes may occur during the provider's regular office intake hours.

**A Pre-Placement Interview with the child/youth/NMD by the STRTP is not required for an emergency placement to occur.**

The EPU will coordinate with the CSW, ERCP, Accelerated Placement Team (APT) and Residential Care Liaisons to address the following:

- Receive and conduct screenings of all emergency placement referrals to ensure that the referred child/youth/NMD meets the criteria for placement in an STRTP and ensure matching with available STRTPs;
- Engage the STRTPs to assist with facilitating the placement and ensure that all required documents are received, maintain tracking of emergency placements, and monitor placement (i.e., bed) availability;
- Monitor and record that a timely Child and Family Team Meeting was held to determine the need for continued placement in an STRTP;
- Verify that a referral was made to initiate the IPC screening process;
- Ensure 72-hour written determination by the STRTP's licensed mental health professional is completed;
- Monitor and track the IPC referral process through completion and that an IPC screening was conducted within 30 days of the emergency placement; and,
- Monitor, track, and assist regional staff with transitions of children/youth/NMDs to an appropriate placement when the IPC determines continued STRTP placement is not required.



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