FOR YOUR INFORMATION

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Issue 25-12 **Date: 07/16/25**

Reminder about Addressing Transition for Children,Youth, and Nonminor Dependents (NMDs) placed in a Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Program (STRTP) to a Least Restrictive Setting in Status Review Hearing Reports

This is a reminder that addressing transition for children/youth/NMDs placed in STRTP's to a least restrictive environment should be addressed every six (6) months in each Status Review Hearing Report submitted to the court.

For children/youth who are placed in out-of-home care and their parents are receiving reunification services, the court will conduct a number of review hearings beginning with the 366.21(e) at 6 months, the 366.21(f) at 12 months, and the 366.22 at 18 months. There are also exceptional circumstances that allow the court to hold a review hearing at 24 months at the 366.25 hearing.

At each reunification hearing, the court has three options: return the child to the home of parent, order that the parent receive more time to reunify, or terminate services and set a hearing to establish a permanent plan for the child (WIC 366.26).

DCFS must provide a report for those hearings that addresses the following in detail:

- Services ordered by the court and offered to the family
- Progress the family has made in addressing the conditions that caused the need for out of home care – has there been a behavioral change in the parent, etc.
- A recommendation regarding the further outlook of the case – more time or terminate reunification services
- Concurrent planning efforts

If the child is placed into a court approved Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Program (STRTP), the report must address the following:

a. Ongoing assessment of child and that the child needs the support of the STRTP
b. That the STRTP continues to be the most effective, least restrictive setting; if not, the transition plan to a least restrictive setting
c. That the placement is consistent with short and long term goals
d. Documentation within the report indicating that the placement continues to meet the child's needs
e. Ongoing efforts of DCFS that are consistent with the permanency plan

Referenced FYI's/Policy Guides:

FYI 21-17, New Procedures for Placement in a Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Program (STRTP)

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Issue 25-12 **Date: 07/16/25**

0100-510.55, Screening and Placement of Children, Youth, Nonminor Dependents (NMDs) in a Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Program (STRTP)

0100-510.56, Second Level Review for Children, Youth, and Nonminor Dependents (NMDs) in a Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Program (STRTP) and Group Home

0300-503.15, Writing a Status Review Hearing Report for a WIC Section 364, 366.21(e) or (f), 366.22, or 366.25 Hearing

0300-503.17, Writing the WIC 366.31 Status Review Hearing Report for Nonminor Dependents

If you have any questions regarding this release, please e-mail your question to:
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