



Fast Facts – Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA)

What is the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA)?

The FFPSA is federal legislation that aims to prevent children from entering foster care. If children are placed in foster care, it encourages placing them with family members or in a foster family home instead of a group home.

How does the law do this?

By changing federal funding, the FFPSA:

- Creates new funding for counties to provide services to families to prevent children from going into foster care, and
- Limits federal funding to two weeks for children who are not in foster family homes.

When does it take effect?

Although the FFPSA was signed into law in February 2018, Minnesota delayed full implementation until September 30, 2021. Some FFPSA requirements were already in place in Minnesota before full implementation. For example:

- Foster care payments for children living with their parents in a licensed residential family-based treatment facility for substance use disorder. See [Minn. Stat. § 260C.190](#).
- Modified Chafee Foster Care Independence Program, extending support to age 23 (previously 21) and extending eligibility for education training vouchers to age 26. See [DHS Bulletin: Program Changes and Application for Adolescent Independent Living Skills Funding](#).

Are there exceptions to the limited federal funding for group foster care?

Yes. Foster care payments may continue beyond two weeks in settings that:

- Meet new Qualified Residential Treatment Program (Q RTP) requirements (see below);
- Specialize in providing youth prenatal, postpartum, or parenting support;
- Are for independent, supervised youth 18 or older;
- Provide residential care/supportive services to children/youth found to be or are at risk of becoming sex trafficking victims; or
- Are licensed as residential family-based treatment facilities for substance abuse where children are placed with their parents.



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What is a Qualified Residential Treatment Program (Q RTP)?

A Q RTP is a type of group care setting that meets federal and state requirements and is licensed and certified through the MN Department of Human Services.

What is the Court's role in this?

The Court does both short- and long-term review of the Q RTP placements to ensure they meet the child's best interests.

Within 60 days of placement in a Q RTP, the Court reviews, then approves or disapproves the placement to determine:

- If the child's needs can be met in a family or foster family home, and
- If the placement is the "most effective and appropriate level of care for the child in the least restrictive environment" consistent with the permanency plan.

At every review hearing, the county must submit evidence that:

- Ongoing assessment confirms the need for residential treatment,
- Specific treatment or service needs will be met,
- Identifies the length of time the child is expected to need additional treatment, and
- Shows efforts being made to prepare the child for transition to a family.

Where can I get more information?

More resources are available on the Tools & Resources tab of the [Family First Prevention Services Act \(FFPSA\) Help Topic](#), including:

- A [Handout – Q RTP Review](#);
- A [Handout – Q RTP Placement Timeline](#); and
- A [Guide to Qualified Residential Treatment Programs \(Q RTPs\)](#).

Content is updated as needs arise, so please consider bookmarking links in your web browser instead of saving hard copies on your computer.

If you have questions, you can email Children's Justice Initiative (CJI) Program staff at CJI@courts.state.mn.us.