



Qualified Evaluator Network (QEN)

Suitability and BQRTP
Assessment Process Overviews

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Magellan
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QEN Presentation Agenda

- » Establishment of Suitability Assessments
- » FL Statute, Juvenile Rule, CFOP
- » Residential Treatment
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- » Qualified Evaluators
- » Types of Suitability Assessments & Time Frames
- » Components of a Suitability Assessment
- » Types of Recommendations
- » Behavioral Qualified Residential Treatment Program (BQRTP)

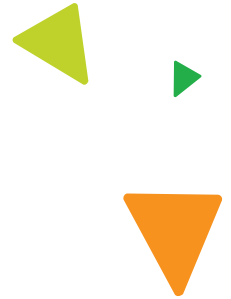
Establishment of Suitability Assessments

Created by a 2000 state legislative initiative intended to:

- ✓ Prevent dependent children from being prematurely placed or maintained in residential treatment when it is no longer needed
- ✓ Ensure the least restrictive level of care for mental health treatment
- ✓ Support the child's due process rights under state law

QEN was established in July 2001 and is designed to:

- ✓ Provide assessment services for children in the care and custody of DCF
- ✓ Adhere to all requirements set forth in S.39.407, F.S., J.R. 8.350 and CFOP 170-11
- ✓ Ensure support of state legislative initiative for the least restrictive level of care



Rules and Requirements for Residential Treatment Placement



39.407, F.S.

Under this subsection, before a child is admitted to a residential treatment setting, the child shall be assessed for suitability for residential treatment by a qualified evaluator who has conducted a personal examination and assessment of the child.

Juvenile Rule 8.350

- Outlines the primary purpose of residential treatment is for mental health.
- Provides the court the authority to make the final determination of the child's placement.
- Sets the criteria for what information must be considered during the court hearing, one of which is suitability.

CFOP 170-11, Chapter 5

- Provides the process for assessing, and if needed, placing dependent children into residential treatment centers, including specialized therapeutic group homes.
- Each Community-Based Care (CBC) agency will have a suitability referral process involving a multidisciplinary team (MDT).

Residential Treatment



Statewide Inpatient Psychiatric Program (SIPP)

Intensive psychiatric services provided to children in secure residential settings designed to serve high-risk youth that fail to benefit from acute inpatient or traditional outpatient treatment settings.



Therapeutic Group Home

A residential treatment center that offers a 24-hour residential program, providing community-based mental health treatment and mental health support services to children who meet the criteria in S.394.492(5), F.S. or S.394.492(6), F.S. in a nonsecure, homelike setting.

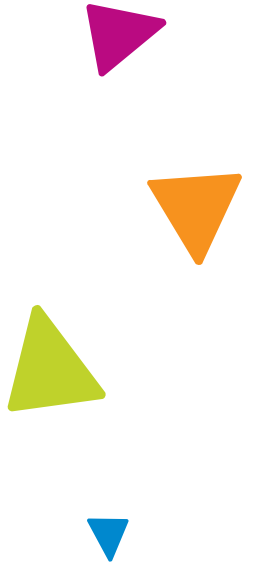


Residential treatment or residential treatment program means placement for observation, diagnosis or treatment of an emotional disturbance in a residential treatment center licensed under s. **394.875** or a hospital licensed under **chapter 395**.

Suitable for Residential Treatment

Suitable for residential treatment or suitability means a determination that a child or adolescent has an emotional disturbance as defined in S.394.492(5), F.S. or a serious emotional disturbance as defined in S.394.492(6), F.S., and all the following criteria are met:

- A. The child requires residential treatment.
- B. The child needs a residential treatment program and is expected to benefit from mental or behavioral health treatment.
- C. An appropriate, less restrictive alternative to residential treatment is unavailable.



Qualified Evaluators

Residential treatment center placement

(other than a therapeutic group home or a hospital)

- Must be a psychiatrist or a psychologist licensed in FL
- Have at least 3 years of experience in the diagnosis and treatment of serious emotional disturbances in children and adolescents
- Have no actual or perceived conflict of interest with any inpatient facility or residential treatment center or program

Therapeutic group home placement

- Must be one of the following:
 - Psychiatrist licensed under chapter 458, F.S. or chapter 459, F.S.
 - Psychologist licensed under chapter 490, F.S.
 - Mental health counselor licensed under chapter 491, F.S.
- Have at least 2 years of experience in the diagnosis and treatment of serious emotional or behavioral disturbance in children and adolescents
- Have no actual or perceived conflict of interest with any residential treatment center or program



Independent



Utilize FL Statute
and Juvenile Rule



Recommend least
restrictive level of care for
mental or behavioral health

Suitability Assessments

Type:

Initial Suitability Assessment



Time Frame:

Before a child can be admitted into a residential treatment center

60-Day Review



Within 60 days of a child’s initial placement into residential treatment

90-Day Review



Every 90 days while the child remains within a residential treatment center

Out of State 60-Day Review



Within 60 days of a child’s initial out-of-state (OOS) placement into residential treatment

Out of State 90-Day Review



Every 90 days while the child remains within an OOS residential treatment center

Reconsideration:

A separate, second independent evaluation is conducted if it is determined one or both of the following criteria have been met:

- The QE was not provided with the clinical record/supporting documentation at the time the suitability was conducted.
- The child’s mental, emotional and/or behavioral health has significantly decompensated since the time of the assessment (i.e., Baker Act, self-injurious, high-risk behaviors, danger to self and others, etc.).

Components of a Suitability Assessment



Review of prior treatment records



**Interview with child
(In-person or via telehealth)**



Input from individuals familiar with the child's conditions



Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) - Trauma Comprehensive assessment




Recommendation from child's treating clinical professional



Summary of findings and recommendations

Types of Recommendations

Psychiatric Residential Treatment
Center (PRTC/SIPP)

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Therapeutic Group Home (TGH)

Non-Residential

Behavioral Qualified Residential
Treatment Program (BQRTP)

Behavioral Qualified Residential Treatment Program (BQRTP)

BQRTP is a residential treatment facility licensed by DCF.

Child's initial placement can occur with a preliminary assessment and does not require court approval.

“

Children who enter out-of-home care presenting with **significant behavioral disorders that did not meet the level of care** for a Statewide Inpatient Psychiatric Program (SIPP) or therapeutic group home (TGH) placement are **considered for placement in a BQRTP.**

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BQRTP Assessments



Type:

Components:

Time Frame:

Preliminary BQRTP Assessment

1. Face-to-face attempt with the child
2. Review of Comprehensive Placement Assessment completed during placement multidisciplinary team staffing
3. Reasons supporting preliminary recommendation for placement

Child may be placed in a BQRTP based on the preliminary assessment recommendation.

Final BQRTP Assessment

1. Interview with the child
2. Review of prior treatment records and consultation with relevant parties
3. Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) - Trauma Comprehensive assessment
4. Short-term and long-term mental and behavioral health goals
5. Recommendation from child's treating clinical professional
6. Recommendations

If a child has been placed in a BQRTP on a preliminary assessment, the final assessment must be completed within 30 calendar days to continue placement.

90-Day BQRTP Review

All Final BQRTP Assessment elements, plus review of treatment plans and progress notes

Every 90 days while the child remains within a BQRTP.

BQRTP Reconsiderations

A separate, second independent evaluation if it is determined one or all the following criteria have been met:



The QE was not provided with the clinical record/supporting documentation at the time the assessment/review was conducted.



The child has experienced a decompensation in mental, emotional or behavioral health functioning.



The QE did not recommend a BQRTP, and the courts ordered the child to be placed in a BQRTP.



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