

## PLACEMENT RESOURCE ASSESSMENT AND MONITORING

- AUTHORITY:** California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 6, Chapter 1  
 California Assembly Bill 575 (Chapter 997, Statutes of 1999)  
 California Senate Bill 933 (Chapter 311, Statutes of 1998)  
 California Senate Bill 403 (Chapter 773 Statutes of 2015)  
 California Child Welfare Services, Division 31  
 Adoption and Safe Families Act (Public Law 105-89)  
 Sections 727(a)(1), 727.1, 11462 (c), 16001, 16521 Welfare and Institutions Code  
 Sections 1502(a)(1), 1502(c), 1530, 1536.1(f), 1538.7, 1538.9, 1562.01(1) Health and Safety Code  
 Section 11166 California Penal Code  
[California Department of Social Services Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Program Interim Licensing Standards \(ILS\) Version 5 \(released 12/11/2023\)](#)
- RESCINDS:** Procedure Manual Item 1-2-251, dated 12/15/21
- PURPOSE:** To standardize the method of assessing and monitoring residential community care facilities (i.e., Short-Term Residential Treatment Programs (STRTP)) that provide trauma-informed specialized intensive care and 24-hr supervision of wards of the court with placement orders and non-minor dependents.

### I. GENERAL INFORMATION

California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 6, **Chapter 1**; California Child Welfare Services, Division 31; SB 933; AB 575; **AB 403**; Adoption and Safe Families Act; various sections of the Welfare and Institutions, Health and Safety, and Penal Code; and Orange County Probation Department policies and procedures mandate evaluation of the quality of services provided and the overall safety of the physical plant of residential community care facilities.

All inspected, contracted, and approved short-term residential treatment programs (STRTP) are placed on the Placement Facilities Active Referral List and may be utilized as a placement by any Placement Unit deputy probation officer (DPO). These facilities are monitored annually by a DPO belonging to the Placement Unit and that DPO is often referred to as the monitor. The monitor will conduct annual visits of each STRTP to verify their facilities are in compliance with state and county ordinances and services are in place as described by their program statement. If a DPO experiences difficulty with some aspect of the STRTP, they will refer the issue to the monitor to address with the program. This allows the assigned DPO to maintain a neutral working relationship with the program and its staff members while the monitor is able to apply different authorities when working with the director to address any deficiencies and gain a favorable outcome.

Prior to a residential community care facility (i.e. STRTP) being utilized as an out-of-home placement facility by this department, an On-Site Initial Assessment must be completed by the monitoring DPO. The monitor's supervising probation officer (**SPO**) should also

personally view the program for initial assessment, the addition must be approved by the division director (**DD**), and a signed county contract must be executed. If a program is approved, it will be placed on the Placement Facilities Active Referral List. Approved programs will be subject to an annual program and facility **audit by the** monitor thereafter, unless allegations of inappropriate conduct result in the program being placed in an on-hold status, pending further investigation.

If it is determined to be in the best interests of the Placement Unit and has been approved by the division director/assistant division director, a program that has not been used by the Placement Unit for at least one year may be placed on inactive status and removed from the Placement Facilities Active Referral List. If a need develops for the program in the future, a mini assessment should be conducted prior to placing a youth at the program.

A residential community care program that has engaged in significant violations of Division 31 and Title 22 Regulations will be referred to the division director/assistant division director for a review of status. The **DD**/assistant division director (**ADD**) may approve a change of program status from active to inactive Placement programs with an approved change to an inactive status will be removed from the Placement Facilities Active Referral List.

All STRTPs must have a signed and executed county contract in place prior to placing youth at the facility.

Effective January 21, 2021, out of state group homes are no longer licensed by CDSS (**California Department of Social Services**) to accept California residents. This affects the ability to request federal and state reimbursement by the placing agency, which means youth must remain in the state. The only exception is youth who are placed through educational placement channels.

## II. PROCEDURES

- A. Introductory contact shall be made with the facility director to establish the purpose of the appointment and to schedule the site monitor.
  - 1. The facility director shall be advised, both verbally and in writing, that the following information and/or documents are required and must be provided at the time of the appointment:
    - a. Program statement, if new or revised.
    - b. Current staff roster (LIC 500).
    - c. Valid facility license issued by the State of California, Department of Social Services.
    - d. Proof of current liability and motor vehicle insurance.
    - e. Names and addresses of board of directors.
    - f. Other information as specifically requested (i.e., sample copies of all forms used by the facility).
    - g. Copy of rate letter.

- h. Non-profit status verification.
    - i. LIC 610-Emergency Disaster Plan.
  - 2. The facility director shall be advised that the on-site monitor/assessment will require approximately three to five hours of his/her time, depending on the size and condition of the facility.
  - 3. A follow up appointment letter shall be sent to the placement facility administrator, reminding him or her of the time and date of the monitor, along with a request for the above documentation.
- B. Statistical information will be obtained from the Integrated Case Management System (ICMS) computer database. Information regarding the youths in placement at the facility since the last monitor will be noted and verified including the number of wards in the facility during the specified timeframe; the number remaining at the end of the reporting period; and the number terminated for AWOL, new law offenses, beyond control, positive adjustment, long term placement needs, and emancipation from foster care at age 18 years old or older.
- C. A complete physical tour of the facility shall take place, using the standards set forth by Community Care Licensing's Group Home Administrative Assessment Tool. This site visit will include an inspection of the general condition and maintenance, of both the interior and exterior of the program facilities. Attention shall be given to health and safety standards, and any deficiencies will be noted.
  - 1. Kitchen facilities and food preparation arrangements shall be closely examined (i.e., Who prepares the meals and plans the menus? Is the daily menu posted and followed? What food items are available? Quantity and quality of food? Storage of food items? Are the food items dated? Have they expired?)
  - 2. Attention will be given to general plumbing conditions, roof leakage, window and door repair, heating/air conditioning arrangements, sleeping quarters, bathrooms, furnishings, fire extinguishers, emergency equipment, smoke detectors, and any apparent physical plant flaws.
  - 3. Attention will be given to youths' personal hygiene items, clothing (quantity, quality, and adequate storage capacity), linen supplies, and recreation facilities.
  - 4. Attention will be given to required provisions for locked/secure storage of client files, medications, personal property, youth's funds (allowance, etc.), cleaning supplies, knives, tools, and hygiene items containing alcohol or aerosols.
- D. Appropriate documents and files shall be reviewed as follows:
  - 1. All pertinent documents shall be reviewed and inspected, including those listed above (II.A.1) and the following:
    - a. Posted disaster plan.

- b. Facility sign-in log.
  - c. Posted safety emergency regulations and instructions.
  - d. Posted **Foster Care Bill of Rights**.
  - e. Facility policy and procedure manual.
  - f. Facility employee procedure manual.
  - g. Facility daily communication logs.
  - h. Facility medical log.
  - i. Facility client file set-up, if initial assessment.
  - j. Daily menus.
  - k. Activity calendars.
  - l. Calendar of mandated appointments (e.g. medical, dental, vision, and mental health).
  - m. Clothing inventory log.
  - n. Allowance/fund log.
2. Orange County Probation client files shall be reviewed, noting:
- a. Date of placement.
  - b. Quarterly progress reports.
  - c. Medical information and Medical Authorization form. Authorization form for psychotropic medication.
  - d. Established treatment goals/initial needs and services plan/intake summary.
  - e. Youth's case plan and Needs and Services Plan (each shall be signed by the assigned DPO).
  - f. Court report, psychological reports, minute order (for placement), usual terms and conditions of probation, and placement agreements.
  - g. Documentation that physical examination was completed during the first 30 days of placement.
  - h. School records.
  - i. Clinical behavior notes.

- j. Signed personal rights.
  - k. Provisions for locked/secure storage of case files and medications.
  - l. Health and Education passport.
  - m. Transitional Independent Living Plan documentation.
- E. Additional interviews shall be conducted with facility residents and other staff members, i.e., program director, clinical director, therapist, social worker, house parent or childcare worker, recreation worker, school personnel, staff psychologist, and medical staff. These interviews shall be accomplished to determine adequacy of intake procedures, basic needs, treatment services, special counseling services, mental health services, drug and alcohol abuse treatment services, reunification services, emancipation services, recreational services, vocational services, educational services, medical services, religious services, outside visitor policy, home visitation policy, staff training, and use of volunteers.
- F. Collateral contacts shall be made to obtain additional appropriate information.
- 1. Assigned state licensing program analyst.
  - 2. Host county representative.
  - 3. Other counties and/or in-county agency monitors using the facility.
  - 4. Immediate neighbors, when appropriate.
  - 5. Local law enforcement, when appropriate.
  - 6. Social worker(s), when appropriate, i.e. mother/baby programs.
- G. The following information will be reviewed on at least six randomly selected staff of varying job categories and a few of these staff will be randomly selected for an interview.
- 1. Employees' records including:
    - a. Date of hire.
    - b. Position.
    - c. Job application and signed job description.
    - d. Fingerprint records/or live scan.
    - e. Background clearance.
    - f. Physical/Medical Exam (including TB test).
    - g. Department of Motor Vehicle record check.

- h. Reference(s).
  - i. Child Abuse Central Index clearance.
  - j. Signed suspected child abuse reporting form.
  - k. Performance evaluations.
  - l. Criminal Record Statement, including written explanation for any criminal conviction.
  - m. Proof of training in CPR and First Aid.
  - n. Water safety training, if applicable.
  - o. Physical Assault Restraint Training (P.A.R.T.), if applicable.
- 2. Records of training received by staff.
- H. The preliminary results of the assessment or monitor will be provided in writing and discussed verbally with the facility director prior to leaving the facility. This exit interview will address additional concerns which may include the following items:
  - 1. Staffing patterns and ratios.
  - 2. Significant program changes in either services or staff.
  - 3. Any noted deficiencies regarding the physical plant; staffing issues; client or employee files; and complaints or investigations.
  - 4. Program questions, or comments, regarding probation staff, policy, and services.
  - 5. Any anticipated or planned future program changes.
- I. Upon completion of all necessary inspections and interviews, the residential On-Site Initial Assessment/Reassessment report or the Annual Residential On-Site Monitoring report will be completed within 60 days. The **DD** will be notified in writing of any reports that are not completed within 60 days.
  - 1. The report will be submitted to the placement monitor's supervisor for initial review and approval.
  - 2. Once the report is approved by the **SPO** and the **DD**, the facility will be placed or continued on the Placement Facilities Active Referral List. If an assessment was completed, a memo with pertinent information regarding the facility will be distributed to Placement Unit staff. If **an audit** was completed, any updated information will be shared verbally with Placement Unit staff **during unit meetings and/or via email**.
  - 3. The placement monitor will add the facility to the **Placement Management System (PMS)** computer database, or update existing records, with the most recent program monitor date and any change of status, as necessary.

4. Any investigations will be documented in the placement monitor's quarterly report to the **SPO**. They will address the alleged incident, immediate action taken to protect the youth (if warranted), interviews conducted, findings, activity of other agencies (if involved), corrective action plan (if warranted) and action of the group home administration (if any taken). While investigations will be documented quarterly and submitted to the **DD**, the **SPO** will be kept apprised of investigations as they unfold.
- J. The reports generated above in Item I, along with copies of the facility's current liability and motor vehicle insurance, staff roster, staff schedule, rate letter, and Board of Directors will be maintained in the Placement monitor's facility file.
- K. A Corrective Action Plan Notification letter will be sent to the facility director documenting the findings of the assessment or monitor if there are deficiencies noted. The facility director will have 30 days to make the necessary changes and notify the Placement monitor in writing. If the placement facility fails to respond or make corrections within 30 days, the completed monitoring report will be submitted to the **DD** for review of program status. If a change of status (such as a soft hold, hold or a stop) is approved by the **DD**, an Inactive Status Notification will be sent to the facility director and the facility will be placed in an inactive status and removed from the Placement Unit's Active Referral List.

The facility director will be advised that the period of inactive status is a minimum of one year, unless otherwise specified, from the date of notification and, during that time, the facility will not receive and may not accept any placement referrals from the Department. After the term of inactive status has lapsed, the facility director may submit a letter to the placement monitor requesting a reassessment of the placement facility. Placement facilities may be considered for reassessment, with the approval of the division director based on the needs of the Placement Unit.

- L. If during the course of a program assessment or reassessment, there are serious deficiencies noted that are hazardous to the health and safety of youths, the Placement monitor shall make a child abuse report (CAR), pursuant to California Penal Code Section 11166. Furthermore, pursuant to Section 1536.1(f) H&S, the placement monitor shall notify the assigned licensing program analyst at the Community Care Licensing Division of any known or suspected incidents which would jeopardize the health or safety of residents in a community care facility. If a written explanation of these observed deficiencies is requested/required by the licensing program analyst, the placement monitor will complete the Summary of Initial Findings for Community Care Licensing form and submit it to the unit **SPO** who will forward it to the **DD** for approval. The Placement Monitor will forward a copy of the approved summary report to the Community Care Licensing Program Analyst and retain a copy in the facility file.
1. If at any time the monitor becomes aware of a situation at an STRTP where the deficiencies are so great as to pose a threat to the health, safety, or well-being of youth placed there, they shall immediately notify the **DD/ADD** to evaluate the merits of promptly removing the youth from the facility. If a law violation is suspected by the monitor, they shall notify local law enforcement.

- M. Each program will have its own county contract that is signed and executed. These contracts are on a three-year cycle and are initiated by the contract's unit at social services agency. Approximately six months before the contracts are set to expire, there should be collaboration between SSA and probation regarding any updates or changes that should be made to the new contract. The Placement Unit SPO will lead that collaboration on probation's side and will connect SSA's contract person to Probation's contract staff member in the Administrative and Fiscal Division (A&FD). SSA's contract designee will draw up the contracts and print them for signatures. Probation will be responsible for obtaining signatures on any contracts not utilized by SSA social workers.
1. Programs being added to the Placement Facilities Active Referral List outside of the contract cycle will require a contract prior to placing youth at the program. This can be done by contacting the contracts person assigned the Juvenile Operations Bureau at A&FD and they will work with the monitor to secure all necessary paperwork prior to obtaining signatures and executing the contract.

**REFERENCES:**

Procedures:	2-1-004	Child Abuse Reporting Responsibilities of Deputized Probation Staff
	2-6-205	Placement Unit Investigations: Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Programs (STRTP) and Resource Family Approval (RFA)
Policies:	E-10	Use of Public and/or Private Community Resources
	F-1	Out-of-Home Placement/Temporary Placements of Minors
County of Orange Contract Policy Manual		
Other:	Placement Consultant Desk Manual	

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**APPROVED BY:**