

Residential Care

Background Notes

The primary care facility utilized by DHS is family foster care. When children are not able to live in a family-like atmosphere one alternative is residential care, staffed 24 hours a day by professionals. There has always been a shortage in the number of beds in residential care and frequently this requires long waits in foster homes which struggle to maintain the placement and need a great deal of support while awaiting an opening at the treatment facility. Residential treatment is seen as an interim living facility with the goal always to change the behavior and treat the underlying emotional issues in order to leave the residential placement and return either back to the previous family or into a family foster placement. The process of determining eligibility and placement in residential care is described in policy I-E.4.3, [Residential Services](#).

Tasks / Assignments:

- Ask your Supervisor to locate a case with a completed Referral to DHS/SPD Children's Residential Services and a case of a child who is having difficulties in foster care. Discuss the qualities the case has that would make them eligible or ineligible for residential treatment.
- Discuss your responsibility for contact when a child is placed in residential treatment and understand the requirements related to a child missing from residential treatment or any placement. Refer to the rules in Division 80.
- Ask your Supervisor about funding for residential treatment programs. Understand the difference related to placements required due to mental health needs and placements that are related primarily to behavioral needs.

Resource:

Division 80:

http://www.dhs.state.or.us/policy/childwelfare/manual_1/division_80.pdf

Discoveries:

- *What are the funding sources for residential treatment?*
- *What qualifies a child for one type of payment over another for residential treatment?*
- *What type of information is needed for a residential referral?*