



NH Department of Health & Human Services  
Division for Children, Youth & Families

## DCYF Standard Operating Procedure

### 1600.2 PLACEMENT OPTIONS

Policy Directive: **21-34**

Effective Date: **October 2021**

Implements Policy: **1600**

Approved:

Joseph E. Ribsam, Jr., DCYF Director

This SOP defines the hierarchy of placement options from least to most restrictive for children placed through the Court in a CPS of JJS case.

#### Procedure

*The following information is to support the implementation of the above referenced policy. This document shall not preclude staff from using their professional judgement based on individual circumstances, consistent with the requirements of the policy.*

- I. The **least restrictive** placement option is a child-specific placement, meaning:
  - A. A relative (by blood or affinity); or
  - B. Fictive kin (close family friend, extended relative, or other persons with whom the child may have an established relationship, such as a teacher or coach).
  
- II. A **less restrictive** option is a non-related foster home, including:
  - A. A **licensed Foster Home** providing day-to-day care in a family setting for children whose needs can be managed in the community and who do not have the intense needs of a child who qualifies for ISO level care; and
  - B. **Individual Service Option (ISO) Foster Care** when appropriate for children with chronic mental health, emotional, physical, or behavioral needs (accessed through a child-placing agency). Children from birth to age 21, who:
    1. Can participate in a local education program;
    2. Will benefit from foster care; and
    3. Require intensive supervision and consistent structure, relating to:
      - (a) A chronic mental, emotional, physical, or behavioral handicap;
      - (b) Present post-traumatic stress symptoms;
      - (c) Having challenging and provocative behaviors;
      - (d) Having a mental health diagnosis; or

(e) Being sexually reactive.

III. A **more restrictive** option is a Residential Treatment Program, which is identified by 5 levels of care (LOC) from least to most restrictive with levels 2-4 being Qualified Residential Treatment Programs (QRTP). The level is determined by the CAT Assessment.

A. Level 1: Supportive community-level treatment independent living (1A and 1B).

1. Option A: Supervised apartments (transitional living); or

2. Option B: Supervised living (supervised setting).

B. Level 2: Intermediate care (a combination of residential treatment and services, which are in the community).

C. Level 3: Intensive care with all-inclusive services (educational, clinical, and residential).

D. Level 4: High intensity/sub-acute:

1. Option A: High intensity/sub-acute;

2. Option B: Community-Based Acute Treatment (CBAT);

3. Option C: Intensive Community-Based Acute Treatment (ICBAT); or

4. Option D: Enhanced Residential Treatment (ERT): Highest level.

E. Level 5: Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility (PRFT).

IV. Treatment in a secure detention/commitment facility (**most restrictive and specific to JJS cases**) is not determined by the CAT.

### Glossary and Document Specific Definitions

A - B   C - D   E - F   G - I   J - L   M - N   O - Q   R - S   T - V   W - Z

### Document Change Log

| PD | Modification Made | Approved | Date |
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