



Practice Points

Intensive Family Reunification Services

The purpose of this PP is to inform staff that our program currently known as Family Reunification Services is now titled Intensive Family Reunification Services (IFRS). New contracts for this service were awarded on September 1, 2008, increasing the number of sites to 16 statewide. Please see map on following page.

As a reminder, the IFRS program consists of intensive, short-term, home-based, interventions provided to reunite children in out-of-home placement with their identified families. Intensive Family Reunification Services are based on the belief that families can, through intensive intervention, improve their functioning, learn to meet the needs of their children, and gain support within their community to enable families to be safely reunified.

Criteria/Objectives

- Children who are in out-of home care and who, without intensive intervention, are likely to remain in out-of-home care longer than six (6) months but have a good chance of returning home safely with this intervention are referred.
- Families are eligible to receive IFRS if at least one child (0-17 years) under CD custody is in an out-of-home placement. Accessibility of staff 24 hours a day / 7 days a week.
- Staff meets with family within 72 hours of referral.
- Small caseloads (3 families at any given time, 13 families minimum annually).
- IFRS Specialists complete 42 hours of fundamental /skill development training and Supervisors complete 36 hours of management training.
- Intensive Services (average 13 hours per week per family).
- Time-limited (60 to 90 days).
- Child usually reunified within 2 weeks of case opening.
- Regular visitation between parents and child prior to reunification.
- Assess families to determine the level of functioning, noting behavioral assets and strengths.

- Teach problem-solving skills to family members.
- Assist in resolving emotional issues related to the trauma of out-of-home placement.
- Empower families to handle future crises without reliance on violence or other behavior.
- Connect families with informal and formal supports.
- Enable families to be equal participants in the service planning process.
- Active demonstration of respect and sensitivity for individual and family diversity shall be necessary for successful delivery of intervention.
- Avoid unnecessary placement and / or maintenance of children in substitute care.
- Child, family and community safety.

Intensive Family Reunification Services are available in portions of the state. Attached is a map denoting service area coverage.

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Missouri IFRS Contract Sites

