

Practice Alert



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Issued by: Kate Watson, Court Engagement Manager

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Updated Guidance around court hearings for Independent Assessor

Recent guidance was given by OSCA to juvenile court judges stating that because Missouri does not currently have any residential facilities designated as QRTP's that courts are not required to have a hearing on Independent Assessments. This is resulting in a change in Children's Division's process outlined upon implementation of Family First Prevention and Services Act.

The case manager who is making a referral for residential treatment after one of the identified triggering events is asserting their recommendation for residential at that time.

If your local court is continuing to have hearings on the Independent Assessments there will be no change in your process.

If your court is NOT having hearings on the Independent Assessment then the Children's Division is to move forward with the clinical recommendation given by the assessor.

Please remember to complete the IA contact form to assure that the assessor has access to appropriate team members and information for their assessment.

Further guidance will be issued upon QRTP designations going live for residential facilities.

If you have questions about this guidance you may reach out to Stevie Keith (Stevie.Keeth@dss.mo.gov), Program Specialist for Independent Assessor or Kate Watson (Kate.Watson@dss.mo.gov), Court Engagement Manager.

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