

Practice Alert



Date: 2022
Issued: Prevention and Safety Unit
by:

PA22-CM-10

Intensive In-Home (IIS) Referrals

The purpose of this Practice Alert is to remind staff to make Intensive In-Home (IIS) referrals in FACES for families that have a child or children at risk of removal from the home due to neglect, abuse, family violence, mental illness, delinquency, or other circumstances. Intensive In-Home Services is recognized statewide as being a program which diverts children from entering foster care and allows them to remain safely with family, thus it is important for the program to serve as many children and families as possible.

Referrals must be made in FACES even if there are no current IIS openings. All referrals and denials are tracked in FACES and this data is used to determine future IIS specialist needs in every circuit. If an IIS referral is not put into FACES because there are no provider openings then the need for additional IIS specialists in the circuit are not tracked.

According to the [Intensive In-Home FY21 Annual Report](#), Table 1, in SFY21, 2,328 referrals were made to the IIS program and 68.8% (1,601) referrals were accepted and 29.8% (693) referrals were not accepted. When families are not accepted in the IIS program, there are several reasons for the rejection, but the following are the most common:

- There is no IIS opening (21% in FY21);
- Safety of the child cannot be assured (15% in FY21); and
- Family unwilling to participate (14% in FY21)

The IIS program has successfully diverted a significant number of children from entering alternative care. As referenced in the [Intensive In-Home FY21 Annual Report](#), Table 9 in SFY21, 77.8% of the families remained intact at the end of the IIS intervention and avoided child placement.

Anytime a Temporary Alternative Placement Agreement (TAPA) is negotiated, a referral to the IIS program must be made in FACES. The referral will be screened to determine if IIS services are available to be an effective intervention to ensure child safety in the home.

It is also important to remember there are times during the IIS intervention when placement into foster care or another placement outside of the home is in the best interest of the child. When a family is unsuccessful during the IIS intervention, the IIS specialist should clearly communicate to CD staff at any time it is no longer reasonably safe for the child(ren) to remain the home and/or the child(ren) require out of home placement.

Program Specialist Contact:
Crystal Wilson
Crystal.L.Wilson@dss.mo.gov

Issued: 05-05-2022

