

# Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP) Checklist

## Initial Placement

- Within 10 days of placement in a QRTP, notice must be provided to legal parties. [Tex. Fam. Code § 264.018 \(a\) and \(f\)](#).
- Within 30 days of placement in a QRTP, the QRTP assessment process must be completed, in order to be used by the court when assessing placement in the QRTP. [42 U.S.C. § 675a\(c\)](#).
  - A qualified individual shall:
    - Assess the strengths and needs of the child using an age-appropriate, evidence-based, validated, function assessment tool;
    - Determine whether the child's needs can be met with family members or through placement in a foster family home. If they cannot, determine:
      - whether placing the child in the QRTP provides the most effective and appropriate level of care for the child in the least restrictive environment; and
      - whether placement in the QRTP is consistent with the short-term and long-term goals for the child, as specified in the child's permanency plan.
  - Develop a list of child-specific short- and long-term mental and behavioral health goals. [42 U.S.C. § 675a\(c\)\(1\)\(A\)](#).
- Within 60 days of the child's placement in QRTP, the court shall:
  - Consider the assessment made by a qualified individual regarding the child's placement. [Tex. Fam Code § 263.00201\(b\)\(1\)](#).
  - Determine whether the child's needs can be met in a foster home. [Tex. Fam Code § 263.00201\(b\)\(2\)](#). If they cannot, determine:
    - whether placing the child in the QRTP provides the most effective and appropriate level of care for the child in the least restrictive environment; and
    - whether placement in the QRTP is consistent with the short-term and long-term goals for the child, as specified in the child's permanency plan. [Tex. Fam Code § 263.00201\(b\)\(2\)\(A-B\)](#).
  - Approve or disapprove the placement. [Tex. Fam Code § 263.00201\(b\)\(3\)](#).
  - Include any documentation prepared for the review and documentation regarding approval or disapproval by the court in the child's permanency plan. [Tex. Fam. Code § 263.00201\(c\)](#).

## Ongoing Review

- As long as the child remains in a QRTP, at the status review hearing and every permanency hearing DFPS must provide the court with information demonstrating that:
  - Ongoing assessment of the strengths and needs of the child continues to support the determination that the needs of the child cannot be met through placement in a foster home;
  - Placement in the QRTP provides the most effective and appropriate level of care for the child in the least restrictive environment; and
  - The placement is consistent with the short-term and long-term goals for the child as specified in the child's permanency plan. [Tex. Fam. Code §§ 263.202; 263.00201\(d\); 263.306; 263.5031](#).
- The information provided must also document:
  - the specific treatment or service needs that will be met for the child in the placement and the length of time the child is expected to need the treatment or services; and
  - the efforts made by the department to prepare to return the child home or to be placed in a foster home or with a fit and willing relative, legal guardian, or adoptive parent. [Tex. Fam. Code § 263.00201\(d\)](#).