

DCF 2023 OJA Legislative Session Summary

House Bill 2240 –

Clarifies and requires the clerk of the district court to provide statute stated parties with written notice when a child is placed in a Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP), after receipt of such written notice from the Secretary for Children and Families.

- Court Partners should not see a change in QRTP notification.

House Bill 2024 Bundle –

- Child Abuse Review Evaluation (CARE) Exam's expanded statewide. Children, under the age of 5, who are alleged to be victims of physical abuse or neglect, receive a mandated CARE referral, to be completed by a state trained CARE Provider. The provider may then recommend a CARE Exam to be conducted during an investigation of child abuse or neglect and report completed determinations to DCF or the agency's designee and Local Law Enforcement.
 - Court Partners may see CARE determinations cited in case files, including petitions made to the court for removal in a CINC case.
- Newborn Safety Devices and other amendments to the Newborn Infant Protection Act. After an infant, under 60 days old, is surrendered to the device, the child is put in DCF custody. DCF has posted required materials on the agency's public website and provided notice to municipalities. www.dcf.ks.gov/services/PPS/Pages/Newborn-Infant-Protection.aspx
 - Court Partners may see this have effects on the speed of CINC as relinquishment is initiated 60 days after a potential surrender.
- Foster Care Bill of Rights took DCF policy and codified into Statute. The Foster Youth and Foster Parent Bill of Rights are posted on DCF's public website and materials will be integrated into the Foster Parent and Foster Child entry processes.
www.dcf.ks.gov/Pages/FosterYouthBoR.aspx
www.dcf.ks.gov/Pages/FosterParentBoR.aspx
 - Court Partners may see questions regarding these rights from both Placements and older CINC youth.

House Bill 2021 –

- Evidence-Based Services for Crossover Youth. DCF is to identify (by October 1st) and implement an evidence-based risk and needs assessment for children identified as exhibiting behavior that could lead to juvenile offender charges during a child in need of care (CINC) case and ensure collaboration with KDOC and the Judicial Branch so that CINC and Juvenile Code children receive and participate in services funded by the Evidence-based Programs Account. Additionally Youth experiencing 'Behavioral Health Crisis' may be admitted to a Juvenile Intervention Center.
 - Court Partners may be notified of referrals and / or may see additional service availability for CINC and Juvenile Code youth.