



CONNECTIONS Tip Sheet

Activities Coding for Family First - Foster Care

The Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA), was enacted by Congress in 2018. This federal law (P.L. 115-123) encourages the placement of youth in family-like settings by limiting reimbursement of Title IV-E Foster Care Maintenance payments for youth placed in a congregate care setting. The law took effect in New York State on September 29, 2021.

A number of new Activities codes have been released as a result of Family First changes. **It is extremely important that all Activities coding be entered accurately and in a timely manner to avoid IV-E reimbursement issues.**

This tip sheet, for those workers responsible for entering Movement, Legal and other codes in Activities, describes the new codes and the conditions under which they apply.

For specific programmatic reference materials, see the OCFS Family First Readiness webpage at ocfs.ny.gov/FamilyFirst.

Shadow Codes

A new set of Special (S) codes have been created for Family First related placements. Known as “Shadow codes”, these S codes are system-generated when certain Movement (M) codes are entered. They cannot be manually entered. Shadow codes identify the type of setting in which a child is placed and are sent to the Benefits Issuance and Control System (BICS) for use in reimbursement processing.

- When a Movement code is entered for a child who is placed at a QRTP, a corresponding S code is generated with a Modifier B of “Q”. This indicates that a Qualified Individual (QI) Assessment and a 60-Day Court Review are required for this placement.
- A youth who moves between QRTP programs (VIDs), even at the same agency, will have an S code for each movement. A QI Assessment and a 60-Day Court Review is required for EACH movement.
- Stay Indicator S codes and their dates are used to link each Q030– QI Assessment and L310– QRTP 60-Day Court Review entry to the correct QRTP stay.

The screenshot shows a form with the following fields:

- Date of Activity: 08/01/2022
- Type of Activity: Legal
- Event: L310 - COURT REVIEW
- Type Of Legal Event (Field A): 28 - QRTP 60-DAY COURT REVIE
- Hearing Disposition (Field B): 95 - QRTP PLACEMENT APPROVED-CONTINL
- Facility Id (Field C): 00a70005
- End Date (Field D): / /
- Stay (Field E): [Dropdown menu with a red circle around it]

The dropdown menu for Stay (Field E) contains the following options:

- S981 - 07/16/2022
- S981 - 06/07/2022
- S981 - 04/20/2022
- S981 - 03/08/2022

The chart below lists movement codes and their corresponding Shadow codes.

Movement Code Entered	Shadow Code Generated	Modifier A	Modifier B
M910 - Child Placed	S910 - Child Placed	Vendor ID of the movement code from which it was generated.	Placement type based on facility type and Family First program. The placement types are: Q - QRTP Placement SF – Specified Setting/ QRTP Exception and Foster Family Boarding Home NS – Non-Specified
M960 - Child Ends Absence	S960 - Child Ends Absence Generated when the absence extends 90 or more days, OR when the end of absence (M960) is to a new placement (VID).		
M980 - Child Returned from Trial Discharge	S980 - Child Returned from Trial Discharge Generated when the trial discharge extends 90 or more days OR when the return from trial discharge is to a new placement (VID).		
M981 - Intra-Agency Transfer	S981 - Intra-Agency Transfer		
M982 - Inter-Agency Transfer	S982 - Inter-Agency Transfer		

Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP) Related Codes

The aim of Family First legislation is to encourage placement in the least restrictive, most family-like setting that can meet a child’s needs, and thereby reduce the number of children placed in congregate care settings. Unless a child is placed in one of four “specified settings”, IV-E reimbursement for foster care maintenance payments is limited to 14 days each time a child is placed in a non-foster home setting. These specified settings are:

- A qualified residential treatment program (QRTP)
- A specialized setting providing Prenatal/Post-partum/Parenting support (PPP)
- A setting providing high-quality residential and supportive services to children who are survivors of, or at risk of, human trafficking (EMPOWER)
- A Supervised Setting Program (SSP) where the child may live independently if the child is 18 years or older (e.g., Supervised Independent Living Program, Community Site, or College Owned housing).

1. The completion of an independent assessment by a Qualified Individual (QI) is required within the 30 calendar days before or after a child’s placement in a QRTP setting.

- If the QI Assessment is not completed within this time frame there will be no federal IV-E reimbursement for *ANY* portion of the foster care maintenance payments of that QRTP stay.
- If the QI Assessment determines placement in a QRTP is appropriate, IV-E reimbursement may be claimed for up to 60 days from the date of placement in the QRTP, and may continue if approved during the required 60-day court review.
- If the QI Assessment determines placement in a QRTP is not appropriate, the placement is only eligible for IV-E reimbursement from the date of placement in the QRTP up to 30 days after assessment determination is completed. Additionally, per NYS law, the child must remain in the QRTP until the 60-day court review and hearing has occurred. IV-E funding will not be reinstated, even if the QRTP placement is approved at the 60-Day Court Review.



QRTP PLACEMENTS HAVE ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS THAT IMPACT ACTIVITIES AND IV-E REIMBURSEMENT.

2. A court review must be completed within 60 calendar days of the child’s placement in a QRTP.

3. Additional reviews by the Local District and OCFS staff are required for QRTP “long stayers”.


The term “long stayer” refers to any child who is under age 13 at the time they are placed in a QRTP and remains in the setting for more than 6 months (consecutive or nonconsecutive) **OR** any child age 13 or over at the time they are placed in a QRTP who remains in the setting for more than 12 consecutive months or 18 nonconsecutive months.

The new Activities codes created to track these requirements are displayed in the chart below and on the next several pages.

Code	Activity Date	Modifier A	Modifier B	Modifier C	Comments
Q030 30-Day Assessment for Children Placed in QRTPs	Date the assessment is finalized by the Qualified Individual (QI). The QI assessment must be finalized within 30 days prior to, or 30 days following the placement date at the QRTP.	P - QRTP Placement Approved OR NP - QRTP Placement Not Approved	Vendor ID of the QRTP Placement	From the drop down menu, choose the S Code with the placement date that corresponds to the Q030	<i>IMPORTANT:</i> The entry of the Q030 code MUST PRECEDE the entry of the L310 code. The Q030 and L310 may <u>not</u> be entered on the same day.

Code	Activity Date	Modifier A	Modifier B	Modifier C	Modifier E	Comments
L100 Petition Filed	Date the LDSS petitioned the court to request a 60-Day Court Review	31- QRTP 60-Day Court Review	Court Code	Docket Number		Next Hearing Date, if known
L310 QRTP 60-Day Court Review	Date the court review occurred	28- QRTP 60-Day Court Review	95- QRTP Placement Approved OR 96- QRTP Placement Not Approved	Vendor ID of the QRTP Placement	From the drop down menu, choose the S Code with the placement date that corresponds to the L310	The End-Date field auto-populates based on the age of the child on the day they were placed in the QRTP, providing the MOD B was 95 - QRTP Placement Approved . <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For children ages 12 and under on the date they were placed in the QRTP, the end date will be 180 days from the date of entry into the QRTP (S910, S960, S980, S981 or S982 code activity date). For children age 13 and older on the date they were placed in the QRTP, the end date will be 365 days after the date of entry into the QRTP (S910, S960, S981 or S982 activity code date).
L310 Adjourned QRTP 60-Day Court Review, if applicable	Date the L310 court review was scheduled to occur	L310-21	Date to which the L310 hearing has been rescheduled			This entry is used to track adjournment delays in the QRTP 60-Day Court Review.

Code	Activity Date	Modifier A	Modifier B	Modifier C	Comments
Q100 Interim QRTP Long Stay Review	Date the Interim QRTP Long Stay review was completed.	P - QRTP Long Stay Review Approved OR NP - QRTP Long Stay Review Not Approved	6C - 6 Month Consecutive Review 6N - 6 Month Non-Consecutive Review 12C - 12 Month Consecutive Review 18N - 18 Month Non-Consecutive Review	Vendor ID of the QRTP Placement	May be entered or invalidated by LDSS, Voluntary Agency (with Activities entry responsibilities) or OCFS staff. Can only be entered if an appropriate shadow code exists with the same Vendor ID (S910, S960, S980, S981 or S982). Can only be invalidated if no Q200 code has been entered.
Q200 Commissioner Level Long Stay Review	Date the OCFS Commissioner Level Long Stay review was completed.	P - QRTP Long Stay Review Approved OR NP - QRTP Long Stay Review Not Approved	6C - 6 Month Consecutive Review 6N - 6 Month Non-Consecutive Review 12C - 12 Month Consecutive Review 18N - 18 Month Non-Consecutive Review	Vendor ID of the QRTP Placement	May only be entered or invalidated by OCFS staff. Can only be entered if an appropriate shadow code exists with the same Vendor ID (S910, S960, S980, S981 or S982). The Q030 and L310 must be entered prior to the entry of the Q100 and Q200 in order to receive IV-E reimbursement.

 **REMINDER: Timely and accurate entry of information in Activities is essential for IV-E claiming as well as OCFS Data Quality.**

Warning! Seek Assistance Before Invalidating Movement Codes



Important! invalidating and re-entering a previous Return from Absence code (M960) will have adverse effects on IV-E funding due to the change in the 14-Day Rule to the 90-Day Rule.

The 90-Day Rule was introduced in January 2023 and states that any youth who returns from an absence of less than 90 days to the same program (VID), will remain on the *consecutive care day clock*. The Long Stay Review date will be drastically impacted by invalidating and re-entering the M960, likely resulting in a loss of IV-E funding for the child's stay in the QRTP.

For guidance, email the OCFS Reimbursement Unit mailbox at **ocfs.sm.finance.ivefc.postypes@ocfs.ny.gov** *prior* to invalidating any existing M960 codes.

Invalidating the movement code which begins a child's stay in a QRTP (M910, M960, M980, M981 or M982) will also invalidate the corresponding Q030 and L310 codes, which must then be re-entered on consecutive days. For additional questions about invalidating an M code, please contact your CONNECTIONS Implementation Team.

Resources

- CONNECTIONS Job Aids and Tip Sheets:
<https://ocfs.ny.gov/connect/jobaided/jobaided.asp>
- CONNECTIONS Regional Implementation Staff:
<https://ocfs.ny.gov/connect/contact.asp>
- CONNECTIONS Application Help Mailbox: ocfs.sm.conn_app@ocfs.ny.gov
(NOTE: address contains an underline)
- 18-OCFS-INF-06 Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) (P.L. 115-123)
<https://ocfs.ny.gov/programs/fostercare/titleiv-e/family-first.php>

ITS Enterprise Service Desk
1-844-891-1786

A Helpdesk ticket is now required before sending requests to the App Help Mailbox. This can be acquired by emailing **FixIt@its.ny.gov**.