

# DCF LEGISLATIVE TESTIMONY



*March 23, 2023*

**TESTIMONY OF**

Tanya Keys, Deputy Secretary

Kansas Department for Children and Families

**TESTIMONY ON**

Proponent Testimony HB 2240

**Chair**

Senator Gossage

**Vice Chair**

Senator Erickson

**Ranking Minority**

Senator Pettey

**and**

**Members of the Committee**

## SUMMARY OF ISSUE & DCF POSITION

Chair Gossage and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify as a proponent on HB 2240. HB 2240 provides clarity that the clerk of the district court shall give written notice to various parties regarding a child's move to a Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP) after the Secretary has provided notice to court of the child's move to a QRTP. HB 2240 would amend K.S.A. 38-2291.

## CONTEXT & HISTORY

QRTP facilities are licensed by DCF and began operating in October 2019 related to Kansas implementation of the Family First Prevention Services Act enacted as part of Public Law (P.L.) 115-123. A QRTP is a 24-hour group home or residential facility that meets the requirements of K.A.R. 28-4-123-132 and K.A.R. 28-4-268-280. It is a non-secure residential, court ordered service designed to provide an environment with consistent structure, therapeutic intervention, and stability with a high degree of supervision. When a child is placed in a QRTP, there is an assessment of appropriate need completed within 30 days by an independent assessor and that assessment is provided within 60 days to the judge in the child's court case matter. Both the 30-day assessment and court review determine appropriateness of placement in a QRTP. To assure the court's review is timely, the Secretary provides notice of the move to court within 7 days of placement in a QRTP.

There are 12 QRTP facilities in Kansas with 100 children and youth residing in these facilities on 12/31/22 (Figure and Table 1.) Ages of children placed in QRTP on 12/31/22 ranges from 10 to 18 years with the greatest concentration of youth ages 14-15 (39%, Table 1.)

## EFFECT OF LEGISLATION & FISCAL IMPACT

The legislation is a technical change to reflect current procedure that notice to parties in a Child In Need of Care proceeding of the child's move is by the county clerk. There is no fiscal impact to DCF.

## DCF POSITION

DCF is supportive of this legislation and would ask this committee to pass favorably.

## REFERENCE TABLE AND FIGURES

Table 1: Children in QRTP Facility

Age in Years on 12/31/22	Female	Male	Total	Age as %
10-11	3	2	5	5%
12-13	11	4	15	15%
14-15	20	19	39	39%
16-17	15	20	35	35%
>18	1	5	6	6%
Total	50	50	100	100%

Figure 1

Rev: 11/4/22

# Kansas Bed Numbers for Q RTP Facilities

