

Children’s Residential Care Facility Services: Aftercare Support Services
Frequently Asked Questions September 2022

1.	<p>Q. What are Aftercare Support Services?</p> <p>A. Section 97 of MaineCare rule defines Aftercare Support Services as “..individualized family-focused, community-based, trauma-informed, culturally sensitive services that will be provided for at least six (6) months post discharge and meet all criteria as defined in Section 50741 of the federal Family First Prevention Services Act (H.R. 1892). Aftercare Support Services are interventions for members receiving Intellectual Disabilities/Developmental Disabilities (ID/DD) and Mental Health (MH) Children’s Residential Care Facility (CRCF) services under Appendix D.”</p>
2.	<p>Q. What is the CRCF staff requirement for providing Aftercare Support Services?</p> <p>A. The Family Transition Specialist (FTS) is a staff requirement for the provision of Aftercare Support Services. To qualify as a Family Transition Specialist, individuals must meet the minimum following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet all criteria outlined in Section 97.07-2 (H)(1); and • Hold a bachelor’s degree in social work or a related human services field from an accredited university; or hold a bachelor’s degree in an unrelated field with at least one (1) year of professional experience in the human services field.
3.	<p>Q. Can Aftercare Support Services extend beyond 6 months?</p> <p>A. Yes, Aftercare Support Services can extend beyond 6 months. Providers will need to document the medical necessity of the service extending beyond 6 months. The Aftercare Support Services Summary Report is expected to be completed every 60 days beyond the 6 months and at the time of discharge. One in person contact per month is required every month beyond the 6 months.</p>
4.	<p>Q. What are the documentation requirements for Aftercare Support Services?</p> <p>A. All Aftercare contact (or lack of contact) with the youth, family members, caregivers, and other collateral providers must be documented in the youth’s case file. In addition, the Family Transition Specialist must complete an Aftercare Support Services Summary Report at thirty (30), ninety (90) and one-hundred eighty (180) days after a youth’s discharge from the facility. All summary reports must include any clinical assessments and treatment goals and are due no more than fifteen (15) days after completion to the following, as applicable: child welfare or juvenile justice representative(s), guardian(s), case manager, primary care physician, and/or treatment providers. This form can be incorporated into agencies electronic medical records so long as it exactly matches the required form and has the ability to be printed.</p>
5.	<p>Q. Do Aftercare Support Services have to be provided to all youth or are there exemptions to providing Aftercare Support Services?</p> <p>A. Exemptions to Aftercare Support Services may be allowable under certain circumstances with approval from the Office of Child and Family Services (OCFS). Requests for an exemption should be directed to OCFS Residential Specialists and must include documentation of supporting evidence that Aftercare Support Services are not medically necessary or clinically contraindicated.</p>
6.	<p>Q. Do Aftercare Support Services have to be provided face to face?</p> <p>A. Per MaineCare rules and the CRCF Provider Guide, at a minimum of one time per month, the required contact with the youth and parents/caregivers must be face to face. There are no waivers to this requirement. Any situations involving the inability to have face to face contact shall be documented.</p>
7.	<p>Q. If a youth is discharging from a CRCF program and is 18 years old, what are the Aftercare Support Services expectations?</p> <p>A. The provider is expected to provide Aftercare Support Services to the youth. If the youth moves out of state, Aftercare Support Services should be provided until the individual no longer has MaineCare. The provider shall be responsible for verifying MaineCare eligibility.</p>

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8.	<p>Q. What are the Aftercare Support Services requirements for contact with the youth and family?</p> <p>A. The specific requirements for contacts with the youth and parents/caregivers during Aftercare Support Services are outlined in Section 97 of MaineCare rule as well as the CRCF Provider Guide.</p>
9.	<p>Q. What documentation is needed for the 30-day and 48-hour CRCF Discharge meetings. Should these have formal minutes or is documenting a summary in a case management contact note sufficient?</p> <p>A. Formal minutes should be documented and stored in the youth’s file using a format of the CRCF choice.</p>
10.	<p>Q. Can Targeted Case Management (TCM), Behavioral Health Home (BHH), or other Behavioral Health services (i.e. HCT/RCS) for a youth/family be in place at the same time as Aftercare Support Services?</p> <p>A. Yes. These services can be in place but collaboration with these providers with Aftercare Support Services is critical to the success of each of these services and will help to ensure that there is not a duplication of service delivery. For example, Family Transition Specialists (FTS), should collaborate with the TCM/BHH on the needs of the youth/parents/caregivers as opposed to submitting referrals, scheduling appointments, etc. as those activities are typically the responsibility of the TCM/BHH provider. In addition, the FTS, although BHP certified, will have a different role than a BHP providing services through HCT/RCS. The FTS role is to assist the youth and family in the transition to the community from CRCF services and transfer the skills that the youth gained in treatment to their home and community setting. These would be unique services provided by the FTS.</p>
11.	<p>Q. How does OCFS envision the involvement of the current or post discharge Primary Care Provider (PCP) in Discharge and Aftercare planning as they often are not able to make these meetings?</p> <p>A. OCFS encourages the CRCF to make every effort to include the current and future PCP in any discharge meetings. At a minimum, a medical appointment should be scheduled at discharge with the new/future PCP. Any information from the attending PCP while the youth is in the program should be shared with the new/future PCP. It is important the sharing of relevant information from the current PCP takes place. How that information is shared can be up to the CRCF if the new/future PCP cannot attend the discharge meeting.</p>
12.	<p>Q. What if a parent declines to participate in Aftercare Support Services?</p> <p>A. Aftercare Support Services are a part of CRCF services and youth/parents/caregivers are expected to participate; however, a parent/caregiver does have the right to decline any service. It is expected that the CRCF provider will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilize the Aftercare Support Services Informational Sheet with youth and families to help explain the benefits to the parent/caregiver/family at time of referral, intake, admission, and throughout the treatment and discharge process. • Make reasonable efforts to engage the parent/caregiver/family. • Strongly encourage the parent/caregiver/family to participate to help meet the needs of the youth/parent/caregiver/family.
13.	<p>Q. What documentation is required for attempts to reach youth/parents/caregivers to provide Aftercare Support Services when they are not responding to these attempts?</p> <p>A. The CRCF shall document all attempts to reach the youth/parents/caregivers in the youth’s case file whether contact with the family is made or not. Outreach attempts and results should be documented in the Aftercare Summary Report.</p>
14.	<p>Q. Can a parent request Aftercare Support Services <u>after</u> they have declined participating in the service initially?</p> <p>A. If a parent has initially declined Aftercare Support Services, anytime <u>within</u> the 6 months post discharge date, the parent can request Aftercare Support Services. If services that start sometime within the 6 month post discharge period, they can continue to be provided beyond the 6-month post discharge date.</p>



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15.	<p>Q. Are Aftercare Support Services still required to be provided to a family even if they have a well-functioning external provider team and the family does not identify the need for support?</p> <p>A. The Family Transition Specialist is expected to connect with the family as scheduled/required, even if the family is doing well.</p>
16.	<p>Q. How does billing for Aftercare Support Services work?</p> <p>A. More information about billing can be found in Section 97 of MaineCare rule, and this FAQ. All billing questions should be directed to the Office of MaineCare services provider relations Bruce.Cosgrove@maine.gov.</p>
17.	<p>Q. Where do I learn more about the requirements of Children's Residential Care Facility Services?</p> <p>A. A Children's Residential Care Facility Services Provider Guide has been created to outline the procedures for admission and treatment which can be found on the OCFS website located here. More information about the Qualified Residential Treatment Program standards under Family First can be found on the OCFS website here.</p>