



DEPARTMENT of CHILDREN and FAMILIES

Making a Difference for Children, Families and Communities



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SAFE FAMILY RECOVERY (SAFE-FR) FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How is Project SAFE and RSVP/RCM changing?

These 3 services are being enhanced to use these 3 Evidence-based Practice models (EBPs):

- 1) a screening protocol: Screening and Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT),
- 2) an engagement intervention: Multi-dimensional Family Recovery (MDFR), and
- 3) recovery support: Recovery Management Check-ups (RMC).

Here are a few of the additions that SAFE-FR will provide:

- Extended screening, engagement and recovery support statewide
- Increased number of families to be served
- On-site screenings and toxicology at both DCF area offices and in provider locations
- Improved information sharing between DCF and providers through direct SBIRT referrals
- Increased identification of overdose risk and dissemination of information on Narcan
- Additional focus on family functioning
- Extended services to offer recovery support for up to 6 months after treatment
- Improved quality assurance protocols
- Increased data analysis through a racial justice/health equity lens

Will elements of the service array still be available?

Yes.

- Caregivers will still have a Recovery Specialist who delivers services in the home.
- Caregivers, like all other adults in Connecticut, will still be able to receive full substance use evaluations by accessing currently available services delivered by their community behavioral health providers.
- Courts may still require that caregivers participate in and complete Recovery Support services.
- Toxicology testing will still be available for caregivers when indicated.

Why are these changes being made?

The Department is building on the strengths of the current Project SAFE, RSVP, and RCM models, while recognizing they were developed over a decade ago and practice continues to evolve as do the circumstances individuals are facing.

For example, in the time since the inception of these programs, the Department has adopted a Family Strengthening Practice Model, there has been both recognition and investment in approaches that

provide in home supports to increase access, improve outcomes and minimize the need for children to experience a removal.

SAFE-FR maintains recovery support and introduces evidence-based practice to strengthen the system and improve outcomes for children and families.

What families will be eligible and will that be different from current criteria?

SAFE-FR will continue to serve the same population: adult caregivers impacted by substance use involved in the child welfare system.

Will families currently enrolled transition to the new service?

Yes, planning is underway for each caregiver receiving services to ensure that all are able to have services that meet their needs.

For families currently receiving RSVP, transition plans will be presented to their legal counsel/contract attorneys and the courts for input and to ensure that families continue to receive services during this transition.

What role will the courts play with SAFE-FR?

As DCF looks to enhance and refresh the current RSVP/RCM model, the courts will play an integral role in shaping what that will look like. For courts currently served by RSVP, there will be an informational session to discuss the new model and answer questions about the transition from current RSVP to SAFE-FR.

For families who are court involved, the SAFE-RF model will ensure:

- All families will have access to SAFE-FR at OTC or any other time
- Families can continue services after an OTC if they choose
- Courts will continue to have priority access to these services
- Families can decline the services
- Continued monthly reporting and communication
- Toxicology will be available
- Provider will be available for court activities, inclusive of consultation with contract lawyers around client progress
- Provider will collaborate with any other party/provider