

MYTHS AND FACTS – DCF CUSTODY AND FOSTER CARE

MYTH	FACT
<input type="checkbox"/> Children in Foster Care have access to additional services for mental health and drug and alcohol.	<input type="checkbox"/> Children NOT in Foster Care have the same access to services as children in Foster Care. Foster Care can limit some services such as some Family First Services and SED waiver respite. Most foster parents and facilities are not trained to address addictions.
<input type="checkbox"/> Children in Foster Care have access to more PRTF resources.	<input type="checkbox"/> Children in Foster Care are placed on the same PRTF wait list and have access to the same facilities as children in parental custody , with the exclusion of one PRTF that is available to only girls NOT in foster care. Children in Foster Care require the same assessment process and approval for payment by insurance providers prior to being placed in a PRTF or on the PRTF wait list. A court order does not influence the insurance providers determination. All PRTF facilities have the right to decline admittance into their facility.
<input type="checkbox"/> Children in Foster Care can be moved to the top of the IDD Waiver List.	<input type="checkbox"/> Children in Foster Care can pass the wait list for disability supports needed while in Foster Care; however, children in parental custody can also pass the wait list in crisis situations to avoid coming into custody.
<input type="checkbox"/> If a child is placed in Foster Care for truancy DCF and the Grantee (SFM) will be able to force them to attend school.	<input type="checkbox"/> Children in custody can't be forced to attend school by Foster Parents, Kin, or Facilities. Placements can try therapeutic techniques to encourage the child to attend school but don't have the ability to force a child to go to school.
<input type="checkbox"/> Placing a child in DCF custody as a punishment or teaching a "lesson" for their negative behavior (running away, committing crimes, using substances, refusing to go to school) will motivate them to do better.	<input type="checkbox"/> Most of these behaviors are a result of past trauma. Placing a child into Foster Care causes more trauma to a child and will likely increase the negative behaviors versus improve the behavior. Addressing the cause of the behavior in a trauma based therapeutic setting would likely lead to better outcomes.
<input type="checkbox"/> DCF/SFM have access to facilities to meet the needs of children who have sexually acting out behaviors or other criminal behaviors.	<input type="checkbox"/> All placements have a right to refuse placement of a child. There are very few placements where there are no other children placed. There are no placements or facilities who can provide 100% supervision at all times.