

# DFPS Texas Child-Centered Care (T3C) - AFTERCARE



## What is Aftercare Case Management Services?

Aftercare Services are support services that are planned before discharge and provided after the child transitions to a new placement. The type of Aftercare Services provided depends on the T3C Service Package and/or Add-On Services, as well as the child's specific needs and capabilities of the new placement. Funding for Service Package- or Add-On-specific Aftercare is already included in the applicable daily rate that was paid while the child was in the previous placement. Provision of Aftercare services is not optional.

Aftercare case management serves several important purposes including the following :

- To maintain continuity and connection between the child and individuals from their prior placement and allow for a gradual and supportive sense of closure;
- To ensure that local services that best meet the child's needs are identified and established timely so that they can be utilized in maintaining the child's progress in addressing their needs; and
- To share knowledge of the child's unique challenges and support effective problem-solving based on prior experience with the child.

The need for Aftercare is not impacted by whether the discharge was successful or unsuccessful, or whether the new placement is Licensed or not. The child should exit the former placement with a robust Aftercare Services plan.

Collaboration between DFPS Caseworkers or SSCC Case Managers and Providers is required.

DFPS Caseworkers and SSCC Case Managers are required to maintain contact with the previous placement's case management staff to provide contact information for any subsequent placements during the 6-month Aftercare period.

DFPS Caseworkers & SSCC Case managers should inform the child's new placement about Aftercare and that the previous placement will be reaching out to discuss the child.

Each contact must be documented by the Aftercare Case Manager, and if the child's CPS case is still open, documentation must be sent to the DFPS Caseworker or SSCC Case Manager monthly, as well as being kept in the child's file with the former placement Provider.

Outcomes must be tracked by the former placement Provider for CQAI reports, upon the end of the 6 months.

# Aftercare Requirements

While the type, resources, frequency, and duration of services may vary by Service Package/Add-On Service, aftercare requirements include one, more than one, or all of the following expectations:

- Collaboration with the child's core Service Planning team. Team members may vary by case but should include: the child, the child's parents, the child's CPS or SSCC caseworker, attorney ad-litem, guardian ad-litem and/or CASA volunteer, the STAR Health Service Coordinator, relatives, subsequent Caregivers, and other relevant stakeholders.
- Collection, documentation, and tracking of child outcome data, related to the provision of Aftercare Services.
- Prior to the child's transition, administration, and completion of the CANS 3.0 Assessment. Assessment results are reviewed with Service Planning team members to identify the child's strengths and needs to build upon and address in subsequent placement.
- Assistance with school enrollment (when applicable based on the child's age). Prior to discharge, and when possible, the child must be enrolled in school. Any issues should be addressed with the support of the provider's education liaison.
- Development and maintenance of the Education Portfolio.
- Assistance with identifying, facilitating and supporting affirming, normative, age-appropriate, positive-peer relationships, and activities within the child's community at the subsequent placement. Activities should be meaningful to the child and support positive well-being. They may include sports, fine arts, volunteering, employment, extracurricular, school activities, etc.
- Organization and facilitation of the transition to other medical and mental health providers, as needed. This includes collaboration to ensure that there is no lapse in therapy or medication, if applicable.
- Assessment, assistance, and support are provided to address the needs of parents and/or subsequent fictive kin or permanent caregivers.

# Frequency of Aftercare

Most Service Packages and Add-On Services require the Foster Care Provider to provide Aftercare Services for 6 months following placement discharge or Adoption Consummation.

The following Services Packages do not require Aftercare Services:

- T3C Basic Foster Family Home Support Services with no Add-On Services
- GRO Tier I: T3C Basic Child Care Operation
- Short-Term Assessment Support Services Package
- GRO: Tier I: Emergency Emotional Support & Assessment Center Services

For Foster Family Home Support Service Packages & Add-On Services, to exclude T3C Treatment Foster Family Care Support Services, Aftercare requires follow-up calls and/or meetings twice a month for 6 months.

For T3C Treatment Foster Family Care Support Services Package and General Residential Operations Tier I & II Service Packages, Aftercare requires follow-up calls and/or meetings weekly, transitioning to twice a month for 6 months.

## Aftercare Case Manager

The Aftercare Case Manager is not responsible for enforcing compliance by the subsequent placement with the Aftercare Service Plan and goals, as that is out of their control. The intent is to provide a comprehensive plan, establish formal and informal opportunities for communication and feedback to provide continuity of care, share helpful information to smooth the child's transition and adjustment period, and help the child maintain a connection with previous Caregivers.