



TEXAS
Department of Family
and Protective Services

DFPS Rider 30
Placement Process and Capacity Tracking

September 2020

As required in Rider 30, Article II of The General Appropriations Act, 86th Texas Legislature, the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) shall evaluate and provide a report on the Centralized Placement Units that takes into consideration:

- a) placement capacity tracking;
- b) enforcement of contract requirements for licensed providers to give the agency accurate and timely data about placement availability;
- c) continuity of placement staff assignment and appropriateness of placement staff workload;
- d) assessment of multiple placement disruptions;
- e) Continuous Quality Improvement for placement process; and
- f) planning and coordination for placement process between the legacy system and roll-out of Community-based Care across the state.

Not later than September 1, 2020, DFPS shall report the findings and recommendations to the Legislative Budget Board, the Governor, the House Committee on Appropriations, the Senate Committee on Finance, the House Committee on Human Services, and the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services.

DFPS General Placement Search (GPS) System

Although not formally in one report, various considerations listed in this Rider have been used to inform the agency's development of a holistic placement portal, known as the "General Placement Search" (GPS) system. DFPS is in the final stages of development of this new portal and will be deploying the new system in fiscal year (FY) 2021. This enhanced system will allow users to search for optimal placements for children and youth in DFPS conservatorship, as well as young adults in extended foster care.

The GPS portal was designed based on input and data collected from Centralized Placement and Residential Treatment Placement Coordinators, caseworkers and providers and will allow users the ability to:

- Easily identify placements by searching through vacancy information in near real-time.
- Match child characteristics (entered by DFPS) to specific placement characteristics.
- Provide information on the demographics of the placement to include data related to other children and history of incidents and/or behaviors.
- Utilize Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to locate potential placements, schools, current placement, sibling placements, and home of removal.

- View information from IMPACT, CLASS, and other internal systems related to compliance and enforcement in one location rather than multiple locations.
- Report on placement and caregiver capacity by placement type, provider and service offered.

Additionally, the GPS system will allow DFPS placement staff the ability to track placement search activities relevant to their current workload.

The work inherent to build the GPS system commenced in 2018 before the end of the 86th Legislative Session when Rider 30 was included in the GAA. Many of the tasks listed as considerations in this Rider were performed starting in 2017 and have resulted in the current GPS system model. It is likely that repeating some of the same exploration/ activities and tasks in order to produce a detailed report would lead to the same conclusion; the GPS system is a tool needed by CPS to better match children to the least restrictive and most appropriate placement.