

CHAPTER 172
FAMILY-CENTERED SERVICES

Chapter rescission date pursuant to Iowa Code section 17A.7: 12/1/31

441—172.1(234) Definitions.

“Case” means at least one child in a household is involved in department services with a department social work case manager.

“Child” or *“children”* means a person or persons who meet the definition of a child in Iowa Code section 232.68(1).

“Child abuse” means one or more of the categories of child abuse defined in Iowa Code section 232.68(2).

“Child abuse assessment” means an assessment process by which the department responds to all accepted reports that allege child abuse as defined in Iowa Code section 232.68(2), or that allege child abuse as defined in Iowa Code section 232.68(2) that also allege imminent danger, death, or injury to a child. A child abuse assessment results in a disposition and a determination of whether a case meets the definition of child abuse and a determination of whether criteria for placement on the registry are met.

“Child in need of assistance” means the same as set forth in Iowa Code section 232.2(8).

“Contractor” means a private organization authorized to do business in Iowa that has entered into a contract with the department to provide one or more of the services defined in Iowa Code section 232.102A(2)“b.”

“Family-centered services” means the services provided by contract pursuant to Iowa Code section 232.102A(2)“b.”

“Family risk assessment” means the assessment of probability or likelihood a child will suffer maltreatment in the future.

“Household” means the place where a child resides.

“Kinship foster caregiver” means the same as set forth in 441—Chapter 125.

“Permanency” means a child has a safe, stable, custodial environment in which to grow up and a lifelong relationship with a nurturing caregiver.

“Protective capacities” means the family strengths or resources that reduce, control, or prevent risks from arising or from having an unsafe impact on a child.

“Risk” means the probability or likelihood that a child will experience maltreatment.

“Safe” or *“safety”* means that no signs of present or impending danger to a child are identified or that one or more signs of present or impending danger are identified but the child’s degree of vulnerability or the caregiver’s protective capacities offset the current threat. The child is not likely to be in imminent danger of maltreatment.

[ARC 0672D, IAB 10/14/26, effective 12/1/26]

441—172.2(234) Family-centered services. Family-centered services are services designed to prevent the child from entering foster care and to assist the family when the needs of the child, parent, or kinship foster caregiver are directly related to the safety, permanency, or well-being of the child. The outcome of the services may be to maintain the child with a parent or in the home of the kinship foster caregiver, to reunify the child safely with a parent or kinship foster caregiver, or to achieve permanent family connections for the child.

172.2(1) Family-centered services provide interventions and supports based on identified needs of children and families that have come to the department’s attention because of:

- a. Evaluation of a child abuse assessment or child in need of assistance assessment and the family’s risk assessment score; or
- b. The child’s adjudication as a child in need of assistance pursuant to Iowa Code section 232.2; or
- c. The child’s placement out of home under the department’s care and supervision.

172.2(2) Family-centered services are designed to:

- a. Identify and build on the family’s strengths and enhance the family’s protective capacities;

- b. Address the risk factors that affect the child's safety, permanency, and well-being; and
- c. Strengthen family connections to community resources and informal support systems in order to promote greater self-reliance.

172.2(3) Family-centered services will utilize evidence-based interventions to the greatest possible extent.

172.2(4) Family-centered services may be offered to the following persons:

- a. A child eligible for services under the provisions laid out in this rule;
- b. Any sibling of that child who resides in the same household at the time of service referral or moves into the household during the service delivery period; and
- c. A parent, stepparent, or kinship foster caregiver of the child.

172.2(5) During the time that a child and the child's family are approved to receive family-centered services on an open case, the department will be responsible for maintaining case management, including contact with the child and family to ensure that:

- a. The factors that present risks of harm to the safety and well-being of all children in the family are being adequately addressed; and
- b. Services and supports are in place to achieve the child's permanency goal.

[ARC 0672D, IAB 10/14/26, effective 12/1/26]

441—172.3(234) Authorization. When the department has approved provision of family-centered services for a child and family, the department will notify the contractor by issuing the referral and authorization for child welfare services form. This authorization form will indicate:

172.3(1) The specific service category authorized; and

172.3(2) The duration of the authorization.

[ARC 0672D, IAB 10/14/26, effective 12/1/26]

441—172.4(234) Client appeals. Clients may appeal the department's decision pursuant to 441—Chapter 2506 when:

1. The client's application for services as described in this chapter is denied, or
2. The services are terminated.

[ARC 0672D, IAB 10/14/26, effective 12/1/26]

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code section 234.6.

[Filed 5/16/07, Notice 1/31/07—published 6/6/07, effective 10/1/07]

[Filed emergency 11/14/07—published 12/5/07, effective 11/15/07]

[Filed 2/13/08, Notice 12/5/07—published 3/12/08, effective 4/16/08]

[Filed ARC 9491B (Notice ARC 9353B, IAB 2/9/11), IAB 5/4/11, effective 7/1/11]

[Filed ARC 1156C (Notice ARC 0915C, IAB 8/7/13), IAB 10/30/13, effective 1/1/14]

[Filed ARC 2885C (Notice ARC 2771C, IAB 10/12/16), IAB 1/4/17, effective 3/1/17]

[Filed ARC 5248C (Notice ARC 5131C, IAB 8/12/20), IAB 11/4/20, effective 1/1/21]

[Filed ARC 6936C (Notice ARC 6768C, IAB 12/28/22), IAB 3/8/23, effective 5/1/23]

[Filed ARC 0672D (Notice ARC 0444D, IAB 7/22/26), IAB 10/14/26, effective 12/1/26]