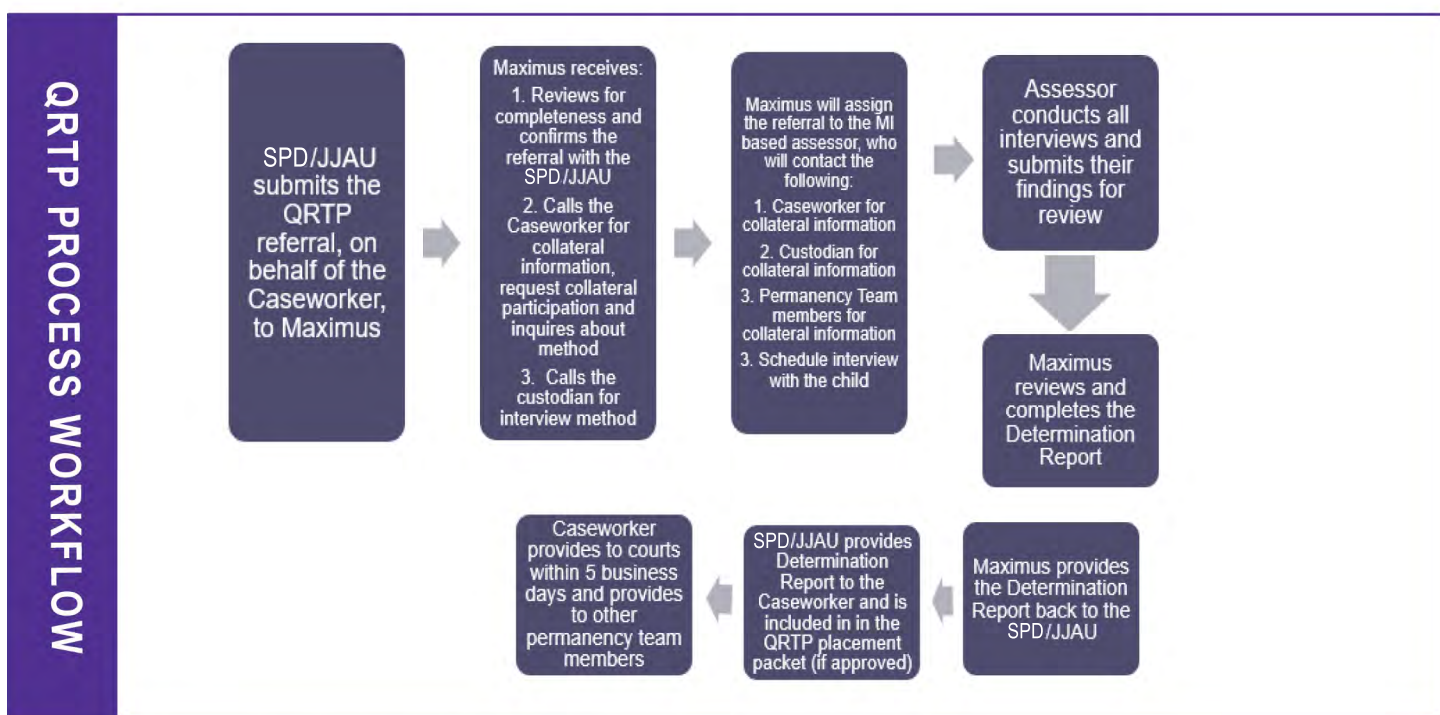


Michigan Qualified Residential Treatment Programs (QRTF) Independent Assessment (IA) Important Process Guidelines, Available Supports and Resources

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (**MDHHS**) contracts with **Maximus** to **administer the state's Qualified Residential Treatment Programs (QRTF) Independent Assessment (IA)** as part of the **Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA)**. QRTF assessments are conducted for eligible children referred from **Specialized Placement Division/Juvenile Justice Assignment Unit (SPD/JJAU)** to determine appropriateness of receiving care in a QRTF and creating individualized recommendations for the child's care.

A QRTF is a residential treatment setting for children and youth with serious behavioral or emotional needs. Typically, significant risk behaviors should be present in order to require the clinical level of care that a QRTF is federally required to provide. QRTFs make use of a trauma-informed care model to address needs of children with serious emotional or behavioral disturbances, facilitate family participation in treatment (when appropriate), and provide aftercare support for 6 months post-discharge.



How to Prepare a Referring Youth for Interview:

Youth interviews with someone they aren't familiar with can be intimidating or even scary, especially if the youth is informed that the interview with Maximus is the determining factor in their placement. Preparing a youth for the QRTF Independent Assessment interview is key to ensuring an open and comfortable experience for the child, as well as allowing for maximum information gathering with the Assessor. Informing the referring child in advance that they will be asked to participate in an interview as part of the assessment process is strongly encouraged. As we know, several factors play into a decision for a child's placement, so it's important to explain that the Independent Assessment isn't the only factor, but rather part of the process to identify the best placement type for their well-being.

It's also important to note, the Assessor doesn't make a final decision, but rather they make recommendations based on the child's strengths and needs. Familiarizing a child with interview questions would also allow the child to more comfort in the interview, such as sharing what lead to their current placement, their preference on where they would like to live, speaking about what they do well and their talents/interests, if they ever have a hard time with their feelings and describing what that looks like. The goal of the interview is to allow the child to share their thoughts and feelings, allowing them to also advocate for their care.



The Interview Process

To complete the Q RTP assessment, the **Assessor** must work closely with the child's **Permanency Team**. The **Caseworker** should actively participate in the process and support the Assessor by informing foster parents/parents/family/treatment team members about the intent for the interviews to take place. The Assessor and Custodian will then contact each individual independently to schedule the discussion.

The information you provide when submitting a referral, as well as during your interview with the Maximus Assessor, assists in filling any clinical gaps for a child with limited supporting documentation. Participants attending the interview can include:

Child
(required)

Caseworker
(required)

Treatment providers,
educational service
providers, and even
clergy (if applicable)

Foster parents or parents
(if applicable)
and/or extended family
members



What materials are most helpful to include with each referral to Maximus?

The Maximus program support team will only have access to the supporting documentation provided during the referral process. As the Case Worker, your participation begins with the SPD/JJAU analyst when first identifying residential care (Q RTP) is needed. Confirm the information provided is accurate and documented. If not documented, clarify to the analyst why. All relevant documentation (see checklist below) should be included. The information may be from the information entered in the **Health Screens** section in **MiSACWIS**, from **CareConnect360**, or from documents provided by treatment or school providers. Webinars on entering/accessing information from **MiSACWIS** and **CareConnect360** are located in the Learning Management System. Maximus DOES NOT have direct access to **MiSACWIS** or **CareConnect360**. **Items appropriate to share with the referral include:**

- ✓ Initial service plan/updated service plans
- ✓ Medication reviews outlining current functioning and challenges
- ✓ School related documents: Psychological or neuropsychological testing, most recent IEP, grade reports current or most recent academic year
- ✓ Mental health: Initial biopsychosocial (if CMH) or other comprehensive assessment (if MHP), most recent comprehensive psychiatric assessment, psychiatric medication reviews for past year, incident reports, most recent Individual Plan of Care/ Person Centered Plan (CMH), treatment summary (if MHP), most recent psychological or neuropsychological testing, testing for eligibility for intellectual and/or developmental disability services
- ✓ Family Team meeting reports
- ✓ Any assessment, testing, medication lists, diagnosis detail, specialist evals

Q RTP Support

Have questions regarding the referral or assessment processes? Contact the **Michigan Q RTP Help Desk**:

MichiganQ RTP@maximus.com
833.664.7787

About Maximus

Since 1975, Maximus has partnered with federal and state agencies to meet legislative mandates and operational improvements. The company sets the industry standard for delivering high-quality, innovative, and value-driven healthcare access solutions, including specialized clinical assessment tools, configurable information systems, and comprehensive project management services. Engaged in FFPSA since its enactment, Maximus also provides similar Q RTP assessments in Indiana and North Dakota.