

Delegated Authority Fact Sheet

Delegated Authority Vendors

Because the specific service needs of some children and families served by the Department of Children's Services (DCS) cannot be determined in advance, DCS established the Delegated Authority (DA) approval process. The DA process is not a bidding process, but a standardized rate system based on established Medicare rates for some services. The DA process provides an efficient manner for DCS staff throughout the state's 95 counties to access medical care/ treatment, behavioral health services, as well as other services for state custodial and non-custodial children and their families, who are not eligible for TennCare and do not have other private medical insurance.

Delegated Authority Application Process

The process by which the Department of Children's services (DCS) reviews and approves new and existing vendors who desire to provide services to children and families, through the Department, under the Delegated Authority. This process helps ensure that vendor agencies meet the quality guidelines and possess the necessary credentials outlined in the Delegated Authority (DA), for the services they wish to provide.

To apply to become a vendor under the DA, the individual needs to contact Elvie.Newcomb@tn.gov or Timothy.Cooper@tn.gov with the Office of Child Mental Health. Upon contact, Child Mental Health staff will send the application and additional information to the vendor agency. The vendor will be required to complete the application and submit accompanying documentation, work samples, and valid background check information. Upon receipt, the submitted work samples and/or service descriptions will be reviewed by the Department's subject matter experts for quality verification. If quality meets designated standards, service rates will then be negotiated with the vendor.

Approval of service type(s) and rate(s) are valid for two (2) years from the date of the approval email. Being an approved DA vendor does not guarantee the utilization of services by any DCS region. The Department will consider all monitoring information and any reported concerns in the assessment of provider performance. Please note that the Department reserves the right to withdraw approval at any time if a provider fails to meet the qualifications specified in the application. Moreover, the Department reserves the right to withdraw approval at any time.