

4.3 Admission and Treatment of Family Unit

A family unit may be admitted to a 24-hour substance abuse treatment facility upon the parent's application if the facility is able to provide services that will address the needs of the family unit, in addition to the needs of the parent. The statute specifies these services as "gender-specific substance abuse treatment, habilitation, or rehabilitation for the parent as well as assessment, well-child care, and, as needed, early intervention services for the child." G.S. 122C-211(f). The facility must determine whether it can provide services for the family unit. If the family unit is denied admission, the facility is required to provide a referral to another facility or facilities that may be able to provide adequate treatment. *Id.*

This provision seeks to address the needs of a parent who requires treatment but who is reluctant or unable to leave a young child or children during inpatient treatment. Additionally, it is directed at early assessment and intervention for developmental problems frequently seen in children of parents, particularly mothers, who are substance abusers.