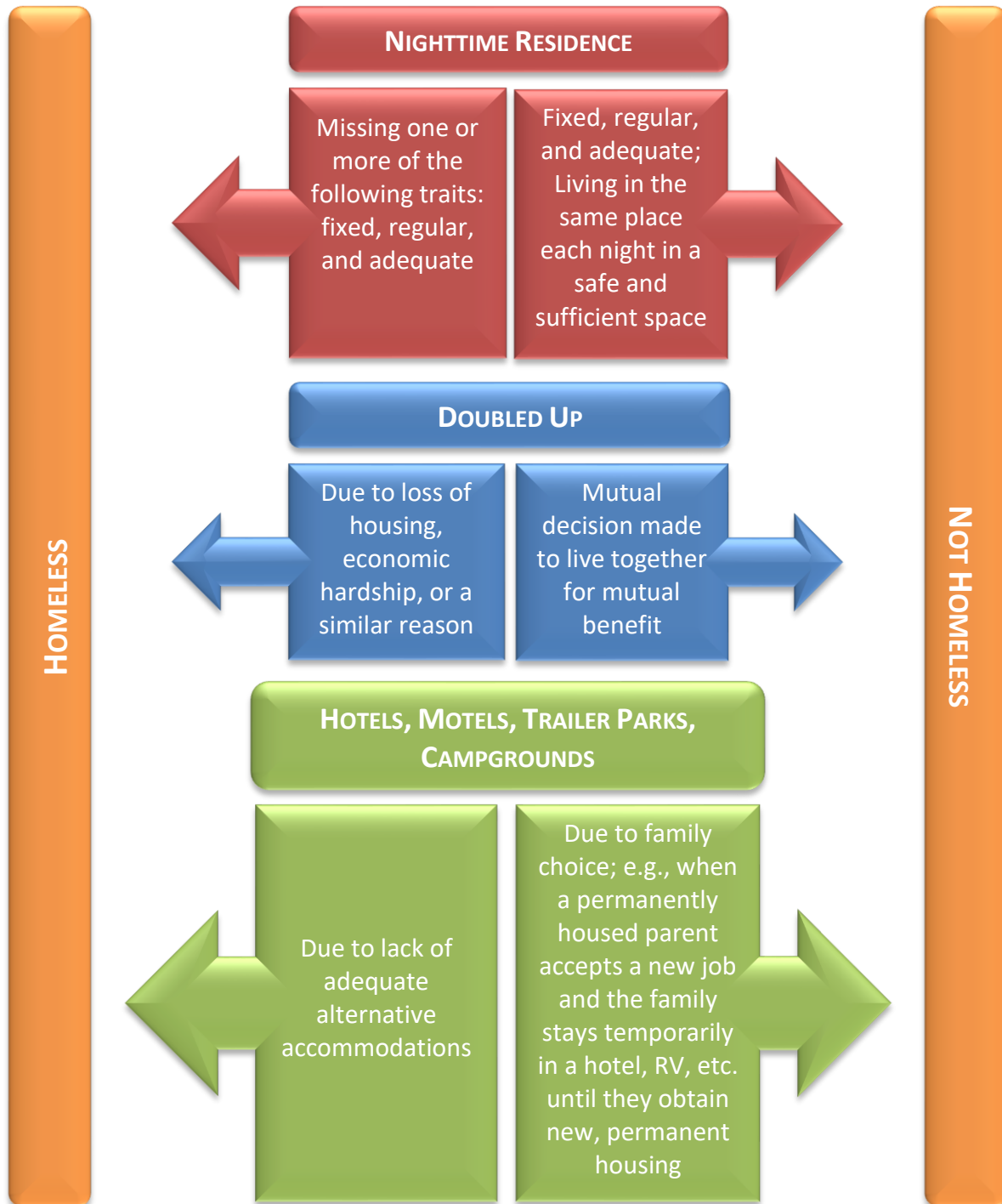


## Flowchart for McKinney-Vento Eligibility Determinations

This flowchart is meant to aid you in making decisions about a student's eligibility as homeless under the McKinney-Vento Act (42 U.S.C. 11431 *et seq.*), but it may not capture every housing situation. For the complete definition of *homeless*, visit <https://nche.ed.gov/mckinney-vento-definition/>. For more information on making determinations, see the related issue brief from the National Center for Homeless Education at [https://nche.ed.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/det\\_elig.pdf](https://nche.ed.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/det_elig.pdf).



HOMELESS

NOT HOMELESS

**HOUSING TYPE**

← A place not meant for people to live; e.g., porch, barn, storage unit, streets, car, etc.

← Substandard housing; e.g., unsafe, not up to code, etc. (Contact district liaison for guidance)

**SITUATIONS BELOW PERTAIN TO UNACCOMPANIED YOUTH, I.E., YOUTH NOT IN THE *PHYSICAL* CUSTODY OF A PARENT OR GUARDIAN**

← Family lost housing; unable to stay together in same place; placed child temporarily with someone else

← Child or youth lives apart from parent/guardian due to domestic violence or family conflict; housing is not fixed, regular, adequate

← Parent abandoned child; did not make long-term child care arrangements

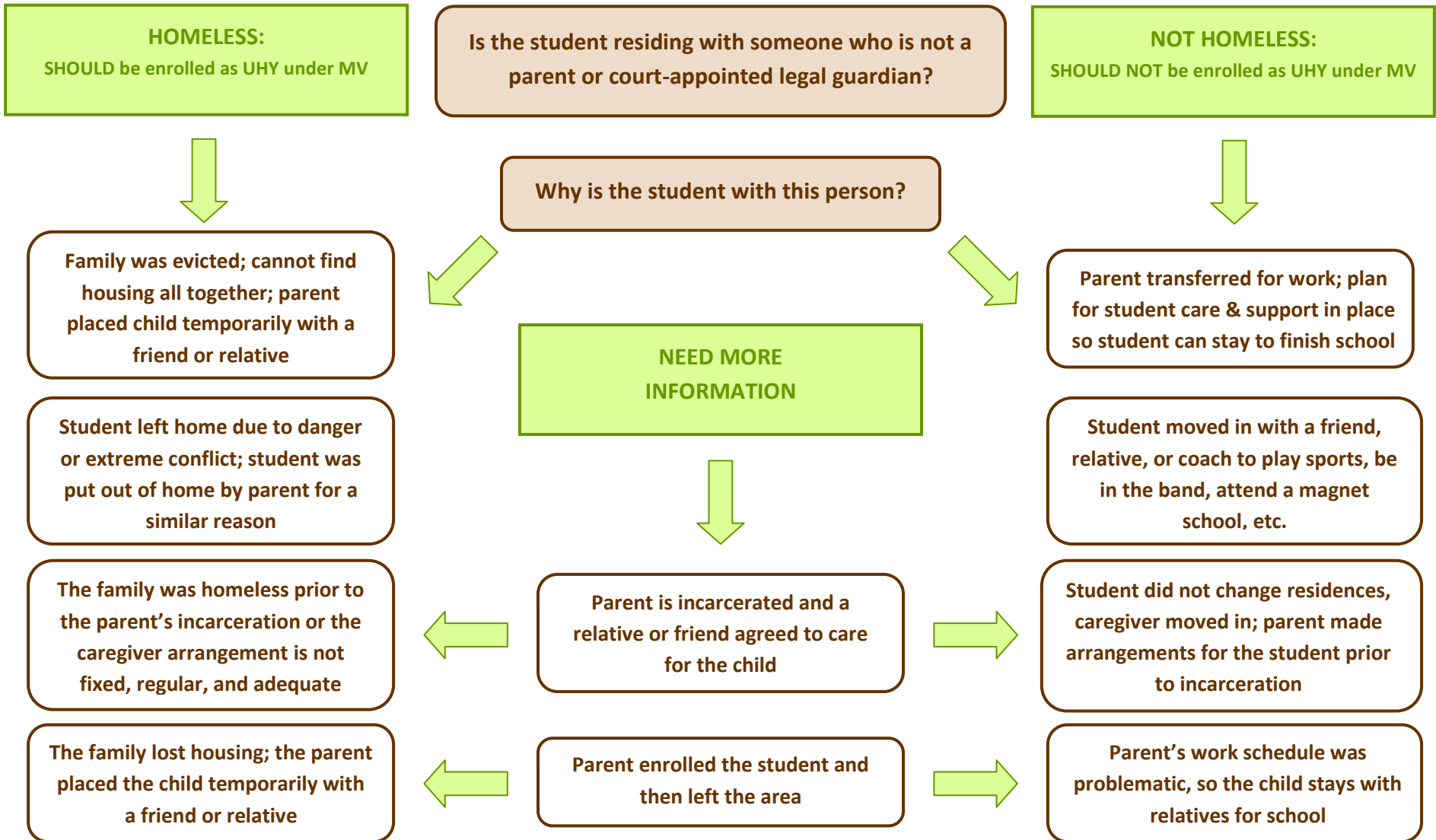
→ Parent has a work conflict & made arrangements for child to stay with others

← Incarcerated or hospitalized parent did not make arrangements for child's care

→ Incarcerated or hospitalized parent arranged for child to stay with caregiver



## Unaccompanied Youth Eligibility Flowchart



**NOTE:** The information contained in this flowchart is intended to serve as a general guide. All McKinney-Vento eligibility determinations should be made on a case-by-case basis weighing the individual circumstances of each student. To be eligible for McKinney-Vento services as an unaccompanied homeless student, the student must meet the criteria of both homeless and unaccompanied.

## Determining McKinney-Vento Eligibility of Unaccompanied Youth

### 1. Is the student residing with someone who is not his/her parent or court appointed guardian?

If yes, continue to the next question. If no, the student may be homeless, but is not unaccompanied.

### 2. Does the student meet the definition of homeless under McKinney-Vento?

These are sample questions that can be asked to determine McKinney-Vento eligibility. Reminder: *homeless* is defined as “lacking a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.”

- Why is the student living with someone who is not his/her parent/guardian?
- Is the student placed in this residence as a temporary plan for housing because the entire family became homeless?
- Did the student leave home because of severe family conflict?
- How long can the student continue living where he or she is?
- Does the student have his or her own space/bedroom in the residence?
- Does the student have adequate privacy?
- Can the student come and go as needed?
- Where would the student live if not able to live there?
- What are the expectations of the student while staying there?

A student who is considered homeless (lacking a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence) and unaccompanied (not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian) can be registered as an unaccompanied homeless youth under the McKinney-Vento Act.

A student who is not homeless, even though residing with a person other than the parent or court-appointed guardian, does not qualify as an unaccompanied homeless youth under the McKinney-Vento Act.

Based on a flowchart provided by Virginia Beach Public Schools