

Preparing Your Client to Age Out of Foster Care:
Impact of Voluntary Jurisdiction (AB 350) and Funds to Assist Former Foster Youth (FAFFY)
on Older Teens

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INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAMS FOR FOSTER CHILDREN AND FORMER FOSTER CHILDREN

To fully understand why the Independent Living programs were created, and ensure that they are implemented to fulfill their purpose, you should analogize to how children are normally raised by their own families. We don't often think about the day-to-day, common-sense information that parents typically impart to their children on an informal, daily basis, such as: budgeting and money management, including how to write a check, and how using credit cards can increase the cost of purchases; menu planning, shopping and cooking; completing forms and applications; knowledge about paying taxes and timely filing tax returns; dressing appropriately for job interviews; and on and on. Those children fortunate enough to live in a family foster home, and to be stable in that foster home, can learn these things. But foster children who are moved frequently, or who live in group homes where these tasks are not modeled, simply do not learn these things. And when these foster children graduate from the system at age 18, they usually lose the adult supports they had; they are frequently unable to successfully perform the activities of adult daily living. Past studies have shown that approximately 50% of adults who aged out of the foster care system experienced homelessness and/or joblessness, were welfare recipients, or engaged in criminal activities for which they were imprisoned. Of the approximately 20,000 youth who age out of foster care each year, many are not prepared to live independently: many youth are discharged from care without attaining basic education goals, many become unemployed, homeless, and dependent on public assistance. This painted a grim portrait of life after foster care.

Chafee Foster Care Independence Act (FCIA)

In 1985, the Independent Living program was added to the Social Security Act. This law was further amended in 1999 by the Chafee Foster Care Independence Act (FCIA), (42 U.S.C. § 677, Pub. L. 106-169) to respond to the limitations of the Independent Living program. The purposes of FCIA, as amended in 2002, are:

1. to identify children who are likely to remain in foster care until 18 years of age and to help these children make the transition to self-sufficiency by providing services such as assistance in obtaining a high school diploma, career exploration, vocational training, job placement and retention, training in daily living skills, training in budgeting and financial management skills, substance abuse prevention, and preventive health activities (including smoking avoidance, nutrition education, and pregnancy prevention);
2. to help children who are likely to remain in foster care until 18 years of age receive the education, training, and services necessary to obtain employment;
3. to help children who are likely to remain in foster care until 18 years of age prepare for and enter postsecondary training and education institutions;
4. to provide personal and emotional support to children aging out of foster care, through mentors and the promotion of interactions with dedicated adults;

5. to provide financial, housing, counseling, employment, education, medical care and other appropriate support and services to former foster care recipients between 18 and 21 years of age to complement their own efforts to achieve self-sufficiency and to assure that program participants recognize and accept their personal responsibility for preparing for and then making the transition from adolescence to adulthood; and
6. to make available vouchers for education and training, including postsecondary training and education, to youths who have aged out of foster care.

Nevada's Independent Living Program (Enactment of FCIA)

In 2005, Nevada first enacted N.R.S. § 432.017, creating the Account To Assist Persons Formerly in Foster Care, to enable older children in foster care and young adults who exit foster care at age 18 to make the transition to self-sufficiency as adults.

The Nevada Independent Living Program is designed to assist and prepare foster and former foster youth in making the transition from foster care to adulthood by providing opportunities to obtain life skills for self-sufficiency and independence. Some young people who leave the foster care system may need continuing services to help them on their way to adulthood. The Independent Living Program does this by offering many learning and training opportunities along with financial assistance.

The Division of Child and Family Services considers all eligible foster youth to include those youth who are in the care and custody of DCFS, Washoe County Department of Social Services, Clark County Department of Family Services and Tribal foster youth. DCFS considers foster care as the legal status of the child, not the physical placement of the child, to determine eligibility for independent living services.

Independent Living Program services are available to youth 14 and older who are currently in foster care. Independent Living services are also available to young adults 18 – 21 who have aged out of the foster care system. Nevada will extend independent living services to youth who have aged out of care in another state.

The four major sources of funding to assist foster and former foster youth in Nevada come from the federal and state government. The two federal funding sources are the Chaffee FCIA and funding for Education and Training Vouchers. The State of Nevada also provides financial assistance to former foster youth through Assembly Bill 94, also known as the Financial Assistance to Former Foster Youth Program (FAFFY), and more recently, Assembly Bill 350 (AB 350).

FAFFY was specifically created to assist former foster children in achieving economic self-sufficiency and independence as an adult by paying for the following services:

- Household goods
- Job training, housing assistance
- Case management assistance
- Medical Insurance

Clark County Social Services (Step Up) – 501 S. Rancho Drive, Suite D-22, Las Vegas, NV 89106, (702) 455-0468 – is the Independent Living Services contractor chosen by Clark County to administer the FAFFY Program in Southern Nevada. In 2016, Clark County Social Services also became the administrator of the Voluntary Jurisdiction (AB 350) program.

Preparing Clients for Independence

The Southern Nevada IL Program consists of both services and training while your client is in foster care (age 14 and up) to prepare him for living on his own, and funding and services after he leaves care, at 18 or older. In care services include tutoring, life skills training, scholarship assistance, driver's training and other help based on your client's needs. Some of the services provided through the Independent Living Program include:

- Daily living skills
- Money management
- Decision making
- Housing assistance
- Substance abuse prevention, nutrition education and pregnancy prevention
- Preparation for postsecondary training and education
- Mentors
- Financial assistance with college or vocational schools
- Medical coverage
- Counseling
- Assistance in obtaining the GED

Voluntary Jurisdiction – Assembly Bill 350 (AB 350)

A law affecting all children “aging out” went into effect during the 2011 Legislative Session. AB 350 (Voluntary Jurisdiction) is codified in NRS 432B.591 to 432B.595. It allows young adults to voluntarily remain under the Juvenile Court's jurisdiction beyond the age of 18 up to age 21. It is a popular choice, because it pays clients a monthly stipend while they work to reach their life goals. Voluntary Jurisdiction clients get a special worker whose job is to help young adults set and achieve their life goals. As adults, our clients make their own decisions about where to live and with whom. The court retains jurisdiction for the limited purpose of resolving disputes. Clients can stay under Voluntary Jurisdiction and get paid until age 21, even if they leave the state of Nevada, so long as they are making progress toward achieving their goals. Because this has been the most popular option, Voluntary Jurisdiction is spelled out in more detail below.

“Child” is *redefined* in NRS 432B.040 to mean a person who is below the age of 18 or if in school until graduation from high school;

As used in NRS 432B.591 to 432B.595, “child” refers to a person who is

- Under the age of 18, and
- Over 18 and remains under the jurisdiction of the juvenile Court;

Voluntary Jurisdiction requires that:

- The Court to refer **ALL** children to an attorney at age 17 if reunification is unlikely to occur;
- The Court to request that the attorney advise the child of the legal consequences of remaining under the jurisdiction of the Court versus “aging out”;
- DFS to meet with the child at least 120 day prior to his 18th birthday to determine whether or not the child intends on requesting that the Court retain jurisdiction past his 18th birthday;
- The child is allowed to change his mind regarding this decision any time prior to his 18th birthday by either informing DFS or the Court directly;

If the Court retains jurisdiction, DFS must develop a written plan to help the child transition to independent living which must contain the following goals:

- Child saves 3 months’ worth of expenses;
- High school diploma or GED;
- Postsecondary or vocational education;
- Getting or seeking a job with at least 80 hours a month;
- Housing;
- An identified adult who will be a mentor;
- Connect the child with appropriate services to address any issues with mental health or developmental delays;

Step Up must then do the following:

- Monitor the independent living plan and adjust as needed;
- Contact the child by phone once a month and make in person contact at least once every 3 months;
- Ensure that the child has a mentor;
- Conduct a meeting with the child at least 30 days but not more than 45 days before Court jurisdiction terminates to determine if the child requires any additional guidance;

Jurisdiction over a retained child continues until the first of the following conditions is met:

- DFS, child, and the child’s attorney agree to request termination of jurisdiction;
- The Court determines that the goals set forth in the child’s written plan have been met;
- The Court determines that the child is not making a good faith effort to achieve the goals in the written plan;
- The child’s circumstances have changed in a way such that it is infeasible to achieve the goals in the written plan;
- The child voluntarily requests that the Court terminate jurisdiction; or
- The child reaches the age of 21;

If a child requests retention of jurisdiction, a written agreement must be entered into between the child and DFS. This agreement must be filed with the Court and must acknowledge that:

- The retention is voluntary on the part of the child, and
- That the child is entitled to continue to receive DFS services and monetary payments made directly to the child or to an agreed upon third party;

DFS is not the legal custodian after the child turns 18 and all proceedings pursuant to NRS 432B.410 through 432B.590 will terminate;

If an issue or disagreement arises involving a child who remains under Court jurisdiction, DFS, the child and the child's attorney must first try to resolve the matter informally before requesting a hearing. If the issue cannot be resolved either DFS, the child, or the child's attorney may request a hearing;

If DFS is recommending that the Court terminate jurisdiction, DFS must send the child and the child's attorney written notice allowing 15 days for either the child or their attorney to request an administrative review. If the administrative review is not requested, the Court will terminate jurisdiction upon written notice from DFS. If the administrative review is requested and does not resolve the dispute, a Court hearing may be requested.

Funds to Assist Former Foster Youth (FAFFY)

Before AB350 was passed, FAFFY was the only aftercare program for young adults aging out of foster care. It still remains a viable option for clients who want to be completely on their own, without any court oversight. FAFFY is administered by Clark County Social Services. It helps primarily with rent payments and emergency needs, but only as long as the client is working and/or going to school a specified number of hours per week and provides proof. The big drawback to FAFFY was that it made rent payments directly to the lesser, and did not make any money payments directly to the client as Voluntary Jurisdiction does, leaving clients with no money for food, clothing and other necessities. That has changed, and FAFFY now rebates to clients directly the difference between the maximum rent of \$773 and the actual rent the client pays. Like Voluntary Jurisdiction, FAFFY is available to age 21. Although there are still some advantages to Voluntary Jurisdiction, (such as better Medicaid), FAFFY's combination of rent payment and cash makes it worth a closer look.

Clients who choose to participate in Voluntary Jurisdiction or FAFFY are also eligible to access two important benefits available through Step Up. These include:

1. Educational Stipend

All former foster youth are eligible to access a one-time educational stipend of \$500 upon graduation or completion of high school with a regular or adjusted diploma. Former foster youth who obtain a General Equivalency Diploma (GED) are also eligible to access \$500.

2. Move In Fees/Deposits

A one-time allowance of up to \$1,000 is available for fees and deposits associated with moving into a new housing arrangement. It is important to advise clients to only access

this allowance when absolutely necessary, because once it's tapped, it's gone. So, for example, if a client applies for and only uses \$300 of the allowance, he loses the remaining \$700.

If you have a client who receives SSI, he or she has the option of participating in FAFFY or Voluntary Jurisdiction. As previously mentioned, Voluntary Jurisdiction makes payments directly to the client and those funds are considered income. FAFFY, on the other hand, makes payments directly to vendors (landlords) and not to clients.

If your client chooses to participate in the Voluntary Jurisdiction Program, it is crucial that the Social Security Administration (SSA) is made aware of the monthly payment they receive. Your client should receive a reduced SSI payment (SSI – Voluntary Jurisdiction) until their Voluntary Jurisdiction payments end at 21. At that time, he or she will receive the full SSI payment. If the SSA pays the full benefit and your client also receives Voluntary Jurisdiction payments, your client very likely could owe huge amounts of back pay.

Status Quo

If your client is 18, still in high school and likes living in his/her foster home, he or she can choose to keep things as they are. The client would still have the same caseworker, the permanency review hearings would continue and the foster parent would continue to receive foster board payments. This is possible because AB350 amended the definition of “child” to include those who have not graduated from high school. Once the client graduates, he/she must choose between Voluntary Jurisdiction and FAFFY.

Be aware that adolescents often “mess up,” and miss school or lose their jobs. It is important to continue to advocate for your client when the caseworker tries to terminate his independent living agreement as punishment for his “youthful errors”.

Advocacy Issues Surrounding Independent Living

What is the permanency plan?

FCIA does not change the preference established in ASFA that youth be raised in as family-like a setting as possible, such as with their biological families, or with adoptive parents or relatives. The same hierarchy for permanency planning exists for teens as younger children: reunification, adoption, legal guardianship, and placement with a relative. When the court finds that a compelling reason exists for deciding that it would not be in the youth's best interests to follow one of the four preferred permanency plans, the fifth option is "another planned permanent living arrangement" (APPLA).

APPLA is not defined in the federal regulations and ASFA eliminated long-term foster care as a permanency goal for youth. Many times older foster youth are placed in group homes or institutional settings and placement in such settings is not an appropriate APPLA: APPLA cannot be used as simply another term for long-term foster care. Furthermore, The Preventing Sex

Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act eliminated APPLA as a permanency option for a child under the age of 16.

Independence – as contrasted to Independent Living services – can be a permanency goal if the placement and services delineated in the permanency plan provide your client with supportive and family-like relationships and the skills and competencies he will need to eventually live on his own.

PRACTICE POINTERS: You should ask your client if there are relatives or non-relatives who might be adoptive or placement resources. Demanding, on behalf of your client, that he be placed in the most family-like setting should happen at *each* court review even if the permanency plan is independence. The permanency plan of independence will not satisfy federal law without a meaningful and concrete explanation of how the plan will achieve stability and a long-term connection with adults for your client.

What are the contents of your client's Independent Living Plan?

Federal and State law require that each youth age 16 and older have an Independent Living plan that specifies the services they will receive to help them become self-sufficient, productive adults. You must ensure that your client, at age 16, is provided with a written description of the programs and services that will help him prepare for the transition from foster care to independent living. 42 U.S.C. § 675 (1)(D). The plan should be designed to help him develop competencies and connect him/her to services in the following areas:

- Education (including counseling and support)
- Vocational and Career Counseling and Placement
- Physical and Mental Health Care (including family-planning and sexual health)
- Housing
- Relationships with Caring Adults
- Knowledge of Community Resources and Public Benefits/Services
- Expertise in Daily Living Skills (including budgeting and home management, communication and self-advocacy skills, problem solving, and planning for the future)

DFS has an obligation to help your client transition to an independent living arrangement by providing the following services:

- Assessments of your client's progress and attainment in education, vocational training, employment and career planning, to identify and meet your client's needs in that regard;
- Identification of your client's service needs - home management and daily living skills, budgeting and financial planning training;
- Identification and plan to meet your client's health and mental health needs for the present and near future (i.e. to age 21);
- Identification and plan to meet your client's special needs (i.e. vocational rehabilitation, developmental disability needs, immigration relief, etc.);
- Specification of the independent living services to which he is entitled under the Chafee Foster Care Independence Act (including room and board services and Medicaid, until age

21) or special entitlements (Supplemental Security Income or Social Security Survivor's benefits, if eligible); and

- Ensuring he has all the documentation he will require as an adult – social security card, birth certificate, high school diploma or G.E.D. (as applicable), driver's license or state identification card, health insurance information, and medical records.

PRACTICE TIP:

The assessments, planning and provision of services for a child aged 16 or over are so important, that if DFS has not fully complied with its statutory and regulatory obligations, you should ask the Court to issue an Order to Show Cause directed at the agency, requiring the provisions of such services.

Have reasonable efforts been made to achieve the permanency goal of independence?

ASFA requires that the Court make findings at each permanency review hearing as to whether DFS has made reasonable efforts to achieve whatever permanency plan is chosen for your client. 42 U.S.C. §671 (a)(15)(C). This finding must be made in order for Nevada to receive Title IV-E reimbursement for funds expended on behalf of your client. If the Court does not believe that your client is being provided with sufficient services to actually allow him to meet the goal of independence, no finding of reasonable efforts should be made. You should ensure that the Court scrutinizes the efforts being made to help your client achieve independence in the same manner and with the same rigor that it reviews efforts made to reunify youth with their families or find adoptive homes.

Issues for Clients Aging Out of Protective Custody

Health Care Needs

Are your client's health care needs addressed adequately in the case plan?

Youth in foster care are a medically vulnerable group. You must ensure that your client's case plan identifies any physical or behavioral health needs and the treatment services that will be sought to address those needs. Because most youth in foster care are eligible for Medicaid, they are also eligible to receive the benefits of the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment Program (EPSDT). *See* 42 U.S.C. § 1396d(r). The protections of EPSDT insure that foster youth receive all medically necessary treatment, which can include mental health treatment, drug treatment, and treatment regarding reproductive health.

If Your Client Is About to Age Out of Foster Care, What Are The Plans for Continuing His Health Insurance?

Both Voluntary Jurisdiction and FAFFY provide for Medicaid coverage. Clients in the Voluntary Jurisdiction program will keep the same PPO Medicaid plan they had as foster children. Clients who opt to terminate court jurisdiction and participate in FAFFY, will still be eligible for Medicaid, but in most cases, the plan will be an HMO plan. The case manager at Step Up will assist the client

in completing and submitting the application, so the client does not have to apply through the welfare office.

Education and Vocational Training Needs

What is the education status of your client?

A description of the services DFS will provide to assist your client in attaining his educational and/or vocational goals is a critical component of his IL plan. Youth who do not finish high school or receive vocational training are less likely to secure the types of jobs that allow them to make a living wage. Studies of the educational achievements of youth in foster care demonstrate lower levels than non-foster peers, in large measure due to multiple placements, barriers to enrollment, and the stressors and trauma resulting from abuse and neglect histories. You should keep the Court aware of where your client is in school, the grades he is receiving, and his attendance record. The Court should require DFS to expeditiously remove any barriers to his school enrollment and participation in educational programs and the provision of other educational support services such as tutoring.

What are your client's secondary and post-secondary educational goals and what actions are being taken to support these goals?

You must pay particular attention to the post-secondary educational and training goals of your older client. For a client whose goal is to attend college, you should insist that DFS provide assistance in the areas of college application completion, application for financial aid, and general college counseling. If your client is interested in vocational training, you should insist that DFS provide concrete plans to help him meet that goal.

Educational Training Vouchers (ETV)

Youth who have aged out of foster care anywhere in the United States and its territories, can receive financial assistance to acquire vocational and technical training or attend a college or university. Financial assistance is also available to youth adopted from foster care on or after their 16th birthday. In order to receive the educational voucher, your client must attend an accredited school, (at least half-time) and maintain a grade point average of 2.0 and/or make satisfactory progress in his education goals.

What does the voucher cover?

- Tuition and fees
- Room and Board
- Student loans for the current year
- Transportation for school attendance
- Personal computer/supplies
- Child care expenses
- Miscellaneous personal expenses
- Books and school supplies

The Educational Training Voucher is limited to \$5,000 per school year. ETVs are available through The Children's Cabinet, Inc., 777 Sinclair Street, Reno, Nevada 89501, (775) 352-8090, 1(866) 741-3218 or <http://www.childrencabinet.org>

Is your client eligible for special education services?

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), 20 U.S.C. § 1400 *et seq.*, 34 C.F.R. Part 300, and corresponding Nevada laws entitle eligible children with disabilities to a free, appropriate public education. School districts must identify, locate, and evaluate all children with disabilities residing in the district, including children attending private schools, who are in need of special education services. Once a child is evaluated and determined to be eligible for special education, the district must provide an appropriate education in the least restrictive environment. Services are provided through an Individualized Education Program (IEP), which may include specialized instruction; related services (e.g., occupational therapy; physical therapy; speech therapy; emotional support services and counseling; etc.); assistive technology and services; behavior intervention programs; and transition services. If your client is not already receiving special education and there are indications that he may have special education needs, he should be evaluated by the school district. (His parents or foster parents will have to request the evaluation; if they refuse, you should ask the Court to appoint a "surrogate parent" since the law prohibits caseworkers from signing off on evaluations and IEPs.

If your client is eligible for special education services, what transition services have been included in the IEP?

Beginning at age 14, your client's IEP must specify his transition service needs. At age 16, the IEP must delineate the transition services that will be provided to address these needs, including a description of linkages to other service-providing agencies (i.e., mental health support). Transition services include instruction, community experiences, the development of employment skills, and other services that help youth achieve post-school adult living objectives. When appropriate, transition services also should include activities to help the student acquire daily living skills. For example, if your client has a disability and will be living in a group home and participating in supportive employment, his transition plan may include instruction in daily living and job skills (i.e., how to use public transportation, handle money, or go to the store). If your client will be going on to a program of post-secondary or vocational education, his transition services must include all of the courses that are prerequisites for entering that program.

Employment Issues

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) is a federal program that mandates states to provide employment services to adults, dislocated workers, and youth. These services include job search assistance, assessment and case management, and training at one-stop centers. The WIOA Youth Program serves eligible youth, ages 14 – 24, who face barriers to education, training, and employment. The WIOA Youth program focuses primarily on out-of-school youth, but inschool youth can also be assisted. The eligibility requirements differ for out-of-school versus inschool youth.

To be eligible for services, an out-of-school youth must be aged 16 – 24, not attending school, and meet one or more of the additional conditions, as follows:

- School dropout – within the age of compulsory attendance but has not attended for a least the most recent complete school year calendar quarter
- Hold a secondary high school diploma or equivalent, is low-income and is basic skills deficient or an English language learner
- Subject to the juvenile or adult justice system
- Homeless, runaway or in foster care or aged out of the foster care system, or in out-of-home placement
- Pregnant or parenting
- An individual with a disability
- A low income person who requires additional assistance to enter or complete an educational program or to secure and hold employment

An in-school youth must be aged 14 – 21, attending school, low income, and meet one or more additional conditions, which could include:

- Basic skills deficient
- English language learner
- An offender
- Homeless, runaway, in foster care, in out-of-home placement, or aged out of the foster care system
- Pregnant or parenting
- An individual with a disability
- A low income person who requires additional assistance to enter or complete an educational program or to secure and hold employment

To support the attainment of education and career readiness for youth, local programs must provide the following 14 activities or “elements” to youth:

- tutoring, study skills training, instruction, and evidence-based dropout prevention and recovery strategies leading to completion of secondary school;
- alternative secondary school services, as appropriate;
- paid and unpaid work experiences that have an academic and occupational education component, including summer employment opportunities and pre-apprenticeship programs;
- occupational skill training, as appropriate;
- education offered with training for a specific occupation or cluster;
- leadership development opportunities;
- supportive services;
- adult mentoring for the period of participation and a subsequent period, for a total of not less than 12 months;
- follow-up services for not less than 12 months after the completion of participation, as appropriate;

- comprehensive guidance and counseling, which may include drug and alcohol abuse counseling and referral, as appropriate;
- financial literacy education;
- entrepreneurial skills training;
- labor market and employment information; and activities to prepare youth to transition to postsecondary education and training.

In Clark County, these services are provided by the following places:

HELP of Southern Nevada – RISE Youth Program
 3755 W. Lake Mead Blvd.
 North Las Vegas, NV, 89032
 (702) 369-4357 x1868
www.helpsonv.org

One Stop Career Center
 6330 W Charleston Blvd, Suite 190
 Las Vegas, NV 89146
 702-822-4200
www.nvcareercenter.org/

Youth Advocate Programs, Inc. (YAP) Pre/Post Release
 2535 West Cheyenne Avenue Suite # 102
 North Las Vegas, NV 89032
 (702) 631-9275
www.yapinc.org/

Driver's Licenses

Often, an important factor in providing employment opportunities is access to transportation. Driving can be crucial to both finding and maintaining a job. In addition, a driver's license can provide your client with a photo identification that assists in the job application process when filling out an employer's tax documents and when doing other activities like opening a bank account. Having a driver's license while in care is also helpful when transitioning from foster care to independence, since your client will be exposed to situations that will arise when he will be living on his own (i.e., going to the DMV, applying for driver's insurance, understanding the cost of car maintenance, etc.). There are a number of factors to consider:

- Whether he needs special approval from DFS before he can apply for a license.
- Where he can get driving lessons and who will pay for these lessons.
- Whether he can be covered under a foster parent's insurance policy or if he needs to find his own coverage.
- Whether DFS will reimburse him or his foster parents for driver's insurance costs.

Financial Literacy

Learning the basics of maintaining finances is an important, but overlooked skill. Ensure that your client knows the following basic money management skills and ideas:

- How to create and maintain a workable budget, including an introduction to “what things cost” so that he is not scrambling to keep up with bills that are more he expect,
- Basic banking skills: how to open a checking and savings account, what documentation is needed, when a co-signer is needed,
- How to write a check, how to balance a checking account, and
- How to file a 1040EZ or 1040 federal tax form, and when it must be submitted.

Special Needs of Clients with Disabilities

Youth with disabilities in foster care are entitled to independent living services to the same degree as any other foster care youth. IL services must be provided “at various stages of independence” including youth with disabilities. 42 U.S.C.A. § 677 (b)(2)(C). Your client may need additional and specialized programming to help him achieve independence, and DFS must provide developmentally appropriate IL services.

If your client is intellectually disabled, is he or she receiving services from the Nevada Division of Aging and Disability Services?

A child in protective custody who is classified as “intellectually disabled” should be receiving services through the Nevada Division of Aging and Disability Services as well as DFS. It is critical that your client be classified as intellectually disabled before age 18, in order to be eligible for services through the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services. Connecting your client to these services is crucial as that system provides specialized housing, treatment, educational, and employment services.

If your client has a disability, has SSI been applied for?

An application is filed with the Social Security Administration and your client will be required to submit medical and/or mental health information that demonstrate that he has an impairment that affects the ability to function in daily life or to work. The disability standard differs depending on whether an applicant has reached age 18. *See* 42 U.S.C.A. § 1382c(a)(3)(A) for the adult disability standard and 42 U.S.C.A. § 1382c(a)(3)(C)(I) for the childhood standard.

You must identify and establish Supplemental Security Income (SSI) eligibility for your client if he will soon be aging out of care. While he may not receive, or be eligible for, the full financial benefit of SSI while in care (SSI is a means-tested federal benefit for persons with disabilities and the Social Security Administration counts Title IV-E money used for foster care placement as his income in determining income eligibility for SSI), DFS should use some portion of the SSI funds to help your client address any of his/her special needs, including medical and rehabilitative treatment not covered by Medicaid. Establishing eligibility while in care can facilitate the transition upon discharge, whether it is to a supportive living situation or to independence.

HIGHLIGHTS OF VOLUNTARY JURISDICTION / AB 350

“Child” is re-defined in NRS 432B.040 to mean a person who is below the age of 18 or if in school, until graduation from high school.

“Child” does not include a child who continues under the jurisdiction of the court pursuant to AB350 after the child reaches the age of 18.

As used in NRS 432B.591 to 432B.595, “child” refers to a person who is:

- Under the age of 18 and
- Over 18 and remains under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court.

NRS 432B.592 requires:

1. The juvenile court to refer all children to an attorney at age 17 if reunification isn't likely to happen.
2. The court to request that the attorney to advise the client of the legal consequences of remaining under the jurisdiction of the court after turning 18 and assist the client in deciding whether to remain under the jurisdiction of the court or “age out.”

Questions/Notes

NRS 432B.594

1. The court **shall** retain jurisdiction of a child after he/she turns 18 **if the child requests it**.
2. Jurisdiction over a retained child continues until the first of the following conditions is met:
 - a. DFS, the child and the child's attorney agree to terminate jurisdiction;
 - b. The court determines that the goals set forth in the child's his/her written plan have been met;
 - c. The court determines that the child is not making a good faith effort to achieve the goals set forth in his/her plan;
 - d. The child's circumstances have changed in a way that makes in infeasible for the child to achieve the goals set forth in his transitional plan;
 - e. The child voluntarily requests terminating court jurisdiction;
 - f. The child reaches the age of 21.
3. If the child moves to another part of the state and the court transfers jurisdiction to another court, the court that accepts jurisdiction must retain jurisdiction until one of the conditions in section 2 is met.
4. If the child requests that jurisdiction be retained past 18, the child must enter into a written agreement with DFS. The agreement, **which must be filed with the court**, must acknowledge that:
 - a. The retention is voluntary on the part of the child;
 - b. The child is entitled to continue to receive DFS services and monetary payments made directly to the child or to an agreed upon third party (payments can't exceed foster board payments) consistent with their transition plan;
 - c. DFS is not the legal custodian of the child after 18, **and all proceedings pursuant to NRS 432B.410 through 590 will terminate**. Some examples are:
 - (1) Six-month review hearings (NRS 432B.580)
 - (2) Annual dispositional hearings (NRS 432B.590)
 - (3) Motions for modification or revocation of an order (NRS 432B.570)
 - (4) Protective custody hearings (NRS 432B.470)

- d. The child may, at any time request that jurisdiction be terminated; and
 - e. If an issue or disagreement arises involving a child who remains under court jurisdiction and DFS or the voluntary agreement, the child, DFS or the child's attorney must first try to resolve it informally before requesting a hearing;
5. If the issue can't be resolved, then DFS, the child or the child's attorney may request a hearing before the court to address the issue.
 6. If DFS wants to terminate jurisdiction, DFS must send the child and his/her attorney 15 days written notice in which to request an administrative review. If the administrative review doesn't resolve the matter, the child or the attorney may request a hearing. If the child or the attorney don't request an administrative review or don't contest DFS' position, the court will terminate upon written notice from DFS.
 7. If a child elects to remain under court jurisdiction, he/she is entitled to receive services and monetary payments from DFS directly or to a third party pursuant to the child's transition plan (see section 19). Payments can't exceed foster board payments.
 8. The court may issue any order it deems necessary or appropriate to ensure:
 - a. That DFS is providing the services the child is entitled to receive **and**
 - b. To ensure that the child is working toward achieving the goals set forth in his/her independent living plan.

Questions/Notes

NRS 432B.595

1. If the court retains jurisdiction, DFS must develop a written plan to help the child transition to independent living. The plan must include the following specific goals:
 - a. The child saves enough money to pay for his/her monthly expenses for at least 3 months.
 - b. Child gets his/her high school diploma or GED
 - c. If the child has graduated high school or obtained a GED a plan to
 - (1) Enroll the child in a program of postsecondary or vocational education;
 - (2) Enroll or participate in a program or activity designed to promote or overcome barriers to employment'
 - (3) Get or seek a job with at least 80 hours a month
 - d. The child has housing.
 - e. The child has enough income to meet his/her monthly expenses.
 - f. The child has identified an adult who will be available to support the child and if applicable
 - g. The child has connective with the appropriate services to address any mental health or developmental needs.
 - h. Set more appropriate goals for the child that can't achieve the above goals.
2. CCSS – Step Up's responsibilities are to:
 - a. Monitor the independent living plan and adjust as necessary;
 - b. Contact the child by phone at least once a month and make in person contact at least once every 3 months;
 - c. Ensure that the child meets with a person who will guide and support the child and also make the child aware of services that are available to the child;
 - d. Conduct a meeting with the child at least 30 days but not more than 45 days before court jurisdiction terminates to determine whether the child needs any additional guidance.



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Step Up Program Guidelines

Step Up, operated by Clark County Social Service, is a Young Adult Program for youth who have “aged out” of foster care in Nevada. To qualify, you need to have turned 18 years old while in foster care in Nevada. The Funds to Assist Former Foster Youth (FAFFY) and Voluntary Court Jurisdiction (VOL JUR) laws make up the Step Up Young Adult Program. Our goal is to assist you in making the transition from foster care to economic self-sufficiency.

FAFFY is funded by the State of Nevada under Nevada Revised Statute 432.017 “Account to Assist Persons Formerly in Foster Care”. If you are eligible, you may enroll in the FAFFY program between the ages of 18 and 21; the FAFFY program ends on your 21st birthday.

The VOL JUR program is funded by the State of Nevada under Nevada Revised Statute 432B.591-595 “Voluntary Court Jurisdiction”. If eligible, you may enroll in this program as you are exiting in-care foster care. This program also ends on your 21st birthday.

We can assist you to attain economic self-sufficiency by providing you with certain goods and services including but not limited to: Case management, housing assistance, employment assistance, educational assistance, transportation assistance, and other services such as referrals.

Financial requests can take seven (7) to ten (10) business days to process, but exceptions can be considered in an emergency. All requests require supporting documentation be attached. Acceptable forms of supporting documentation are a bill, invoice or receipt for reimbursement.

You will be asked to provide and complete a tax-exempt IRS W-9 form when requesting any initial financial assistance. If you need assistance gathering the needed supporting documentation please ask your case manager.

Below are the types of financial assistance that are available from Step Up.

EDUCATIONAL STIPEND

You are eligible to access a one-time educational stipend of \$500.00 upon graduation/completion of high school with a regular or adjusted diploma or by obtaining your High School Equivalency Diploma (GED/HiSET). You must include a copy of your diploma and a plan outlining how you will spend the educational stipend with the financial request form you submit.

MOVE-IN FEES/DEPOSITS

A one-time allowance up to \$1,000.00 is available for move-in fees and deposits that are associated with your lease/rental agreement. For the move-in fees and deposits, the amount that will be paid out is based on the actual move-in fees and deposits that are stated on your official lease/rental agreement, up to \$1,000.00. Any leftover balance is paid directly to you for move-in purchases (such as furniture, household goods, utility bill, etc.). You must state on the financial request form that you submit your



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plan outlining how you will spend any leftover balance. A copy of your signed lease/rental agreement needs to be included with the financial request form.

If you are requesting reimbursement for move-in fees and deposits that you have already paid, you will need to include receipts along with the copy of your signed lease/rental agreement as proof in order for the reimbursement to be approved.

RENTAL ASSISTANCE/MONTHLY PAYMENT

Rental Assistance is processed differently for the FAFFY and VOL JUR programs. Please read below to understand how each form of assistance is processed.

VOL JUR:

You receive your monthly self-sufficiency payment in the amount of \$773.17 every month on your pre-paid debit card that is supplied to you by Clark County upon entering the VOL JUR program. You may receive paper checks in the beginning as the pre-paid debit card may need time to arrive. You are expected to be working towards achieving the goals of the written plan developed to assist you to transition to independent living (known as the “Transitional Living Plan”).

FAFFY:

You are eligible to receive ongoing rental assistance based on the current amount of your rent, up to \$773.00 (subject to availability of funds in any given program year), as long as you are in school and/or working a minimum of 20 hours per week as outlined below. Rental assistance will be “vendor paid” meaning your rental amount will be paid directly to your landlord. Your landlord will be required to complete an IRS W-9 form in order for Step Up to your rent. Situations involving illness, injury, pregnancy, and other emergencies will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis to determine eligibility and exemption from this requirement. Any balance of the \$773.00 that may remain after your rent is paid to your landlord will be paid directly to you for the purpose of paying your utilities and other necessary living expenses. The payment of utilities may include, but is not limited to, power, gas, water, cable, garbage, internet, telephone, sewage, and other such expenses.

To qualify for initial rental assistance, you will need to communicate with your case manager at your intake appointment what your plan is to complete the ongoing minimum of 20 hours per week requirement. Some form of documentation on file will be necessary before initial rental assistance can be issued. Examples of this include an “intent to hire” letter from a new employer, proof of enrollment into a school or work program that you haven’t started yet, or some other verifiable plan that meets the below ongoing rental assistance requirements. Failure to maintain the ongoing minimum of 20 hours per week requirement may result in denial of future rental assistance.

To qualify for ongoing rental assistance, you must provide on a monthly basis:

- 1.) Copy of your current pay stub, showing you have worked a minimum of 20 hours per week at a verifiable employer, who reports your earned income to the IRS (i.e. any “under the table” employment is not accepted since that income is not being legally reported to the IRS).

OR



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2.) Proof you have obtained employment of at least 20 hours per week from a verifiable employer, who will report your earned income to the IRS (i.e. any “under the table” employment is not accepted since that income will not be legally reported to the IRS).

OR

3.) Current print out of your school schedule and proof of attendance showing:

a. A minimum of 6 credits (college or vocational school).

OR

b. Attendance in a GED/HiSET class at least 20 hours per week.

OR

4.) Or a combination of both work and/or school totaling 20 hours per week.

OR

5.) Documentation from a medical professional stating that you are unable to work or go to school due to a physical or mental disability. This will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

OR

6.) If applicable, proof that you are working toward items requested and agreed upon in your individualized case plan. This will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

You will be asked to provide and complete the following documents upon your initial request for financial assistance:

1.) You must fill out a tax-exempt IRS W-9 form before requesting any financial assistance.

AND

2.) Provide the following documentation from your landlord:

- Lease/rental agreement,
- IRS W-9 form filled out by landlord, and
- Proof of the landlord’s home ownership or approval from the homeowner for the landlord to sublease. The homeowners contact information must be provided in either situation.

MONTHLY BUS PASS

You are eligible to receive one (1) monthly bus pass from Step Up each month to help you with transportation. Monthly bus passes are intended for your use only. You may visit your case manager no earlier than three (3) business days before the expiration date printed on your monthly bus pass in order to receive a new one. If you need a monthly bus pass sooner than three (3) business days prior to its expiration, you must make contact with your case manager for approval. If you lose your current monthly bus pass it will not be replaced until three (3) business days prior to its expiration date as stated above.

PLEASE REVIEW EACH STATEMENT BELOW

(FAFFY and VOL JUR) _____ (initial) Limits to Confidentiality: We want to inform you that we are Mandated Reporters who are required to report to the authorities any known or reasonable suspicions of abuse and/or neglect of children. We also may contact emergency medical or other authorities for any known or suspected self-harm reports.



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(FAFFY and VOL JUR) _____ (initial) I understand that I must sign each financial request form prior to receiving the resource. I agree to Step Up paying mutually agreed upon vendors for utilities and other necessities directly (known as "vendor pay").

(FAFFY and VOL JUR) _____ (initial) I understand that the role of my case manager is to assist me. This assistance includes (but is not limited to) providing assessment, monitoring my progress, acting as my advocate, and by linking me with other services so that I can achieve my case plan goals and economic self-sufficiency.

(FAFFY and VOL JUR) _____ (initial) I understand that I must make contact with my case manager at least once every 30 days via phone call or in person meeting(s). I understand that I need to submit monthly proof of work and/or school to receive ongoing rental and/or financial assistance. I understand that I need to meet my case manager face-to-face at least once every 90 days; however, exceptions such as extenuating circumstances may affect this requirement (such as living in another state).

(FAFFY ONLY) _____ (initial) I understand that if 90 days of no contact occurs, I may be automatically moved to an "inactive" Step Up program participant status. I understand that if my status is "inactive", I will need to make contact with my case manager so that I may return to an "active" status in the Step Up program. If I am "inactive", I may not receive ongoing rental and/or financial assistance.

(FAFFY ONLY) _____ (initial) For ongoing rental assistance only, I understand that I must sign the first month's rental request form. However, for future monthly rental request forms, I give consent for my case manager to sign "ongoing" on my behalf. This allows my rent to continue to be paid without the need for me to directly sign the rental request form each month. My case manager is allowed to sign "ongoing" on my behalf for the length of my lease/rental agreement only. If I choose, I may also sign my monthly rental requests directly in person. After I sign my initial rental request, my original signature is valid only for the length of time defined in the terms of the original rental agreement.

Printed Name of Young Adult Signature of Young Adult Date: _____

Printed Name of Staff Member Signature of Staff Member Date: _____



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What are the similarities between the two programs?

Category	Voluntary Court Jurisdiction (VOL JUR)	Funds to Assist Former Foster Youth (FAFFY)
Length of Program	18-21 (program is voluntary and you may exit at any time).	18-21 (program is voluntary and you may exit at any time).
Monthly Contact	Yes, contact is required every 30 days and also face-to-face every 90 days.	Yes, contact is required every 30 days and also face-to-face every 90 days.
Case Management	Yes	Yes
Medicaid Health Insurance	Yes	Yes
Move-In Stipend	Yes, up to \$1000.00 available (one-time).	Yes, up to \$1000.00 available (one-time).
Educational Stipend	Yes, \$500.00 for earning your High School Diploma <u>or</u> \$250.00 for earning your High School Equivalency.	Yes, \$500.00 for earning your High School Diploma <u>or</u> \$250.00 for earning your High School Equivalency.
Transportation	Yes, 30 Day Bus Pass is provided monthly.	Yes, 30 Day Bus Pass is provided monthly.

What are the differences between the two programs?

Category	Voluntary Court Jurisdiction (VOL JUR)	Funds to Assist Former Foster Youth (FAFFY)
Eligibility	Youth who are in Nevada foster care at age 18 <u>and</u> sign a voluntary agreement to continue under court jurisdiction. Youth may exit VOL JUR <u>anytime</u> between ages 18-21 and enter the FAFFY program. Cannot re-enter VOL JUR once you exit it.	Youth “aged out” of Nevada foster care at age 18 or older; or youth who exited VOL JUR and are still between the ages of 18-21. Youth may exit FAFFY anytime between ages 18-21 but <u>cannot</u> re-enter VOL JUR program. Can enter FAFFY program <u>anytime</u> age 18-21.
Requirements	1. Working towards the completion of High School Diploma or GED/HiSet. <u>IF DIPLOMA IS OBTAINED THEN</u> 2. Continuing education (college, vocational program, etc.) and/or employed <u>20 hours per week</u> .	1. Working towards the completion of High School Diploma or GED/HiSet. <u>OR</u> 2. Continuing education (college, vocational program, etc.) and/or employed <u>20 hours per week</u> .
Court Appointed Attorney	Yes	No
Monthly Living Funds	Yes, \$773.17 is provided to you monthly on a debit card. The debit card is automatically re-loaded each month; you pay your rent. You directly receive <u>all</u> your monthly funds.	Yes, up to \$773.00 is <u>vendor paid</u> monthly to your landlord for you. Any leftover balance <u>after the rent is paid</u> is provided to you via a check. We pay your rent first <u>then</u> any balance to you.



MTL # 0801 – 11202020
11/20/2020

TO: Timothy Burch, Administrator – Clark County Department of Family Services
Alexis Tucey, Deputy Administrator – Community Services – DCFS
Betsey Crumrine, Social Services Manager V – DCFS – District Offices
Laurie Jackson, Social Services Manager V – DCFS -District Offices
Amber Howell, Director – Washoe County

FROM: Kathryn Roose, Deputy Administrator, Division of Child and Family Services

POLICY DISTRIBUTION

Enclosed find the following policy for distribution to all applicable staff within your organization: 0801 Youth Independent Living Program: Ages 14 Through 17

This policy is/was effective: 11/16/2020

- This policy is new. Please review the policy in its entirety
- This policy replaces the following policy(s): MTL # Policy Name: 0801 Youth Independent Living Program
- This policy has been revised. Please see below for the type of revision:
- This is a significant policy revision. Please review this policy in its entirety.
 - Updated to ADA Format and Updated Policy Number to 0802
 - Updated definitions
 - This policy was updated as there are specific requirements for youth who are 14 through 17 years of age. And removed requirements for 17 and ½ year and the Court Jurisdiction requirements and information. The 14 through 17-year-old requirements have been separated from 0801 Youth Intendent Living Program into this new policy.
 - Please review this policy in its entirety.
 - This is a minor policy revision: (List page number & summary of change):
 - A policy form has been revised: (List form, page number and summary of change):

NOTE:

- Please read the policy in its entirety and note any areas that are additionally required by your agency to be in compliance with the policy enclosed.
- This is an **ALL STAFF MEMO** and it is the responsibility of the person listed above to disseminate the policy enclosed to appropriate staff within his/her organization and to ensure compliance.
- The most current version of this policy is posted on the DCFS Website at the following address: <http://dcfs.nv.gov/Policies> Please check the table of contents on this page for the link to the chapter you are interested in.

801 Youth Independent Living Program: Ages 14 Through 17

Policy Approval Clearance Record

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Statewide Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Administrative Policy <input type="checkbox"/> DCFS Rural Region Policy	<input type="checkbox"/> New Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Modified Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This policy supersedes: 0801 Youth Independent Living Program, MTL# 0801-09272016
Date Policy Effective:	11/16/2020
Attorney General Representative Review:	07/22/2020
DCFS Deputy Administrator Approval	11/16/2020
DMG Original Approval	09/18/2015
DMG Approved Revisions	11/16/2020

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Policy Statement and Purpose: Child welfare agencies have the responsibility to provide foster youth the opportunity to learn the necessary skill sets to allow them to develop into productive and self-sufficient adults prior to leaving foster care. For youth ages 14 through 17, the Independent Living Program (ILP) regularly assesses youth capacity to make appropriate decisions, to form and maintain meaningful connections with supportive adults, and to develop the foundational knowledge and skills that are required to successfully navigate adulthood independently.

Using a Positive Youth Development framework, youth are the architects of their own Independent Living Plans designed to monitor the development of these skills, and are supported by a secondary Independent Living (IL) worker role in achieving their IL Transitional Plan goals. Youth who participate in the IL program will be offered the opportunity to: complete their high school education; engage in career exploration, vocational training, job placement and retention training; and to be provided training and opportunities to practice daily living skills such as financial literacy or driving instruction. Program participants can expect to receive substance abuse prevention, pregnancy prevention and smoking avoidance programming, and other assistance managing their personal health. They may participate in religious, cultural and developmentally appropriate activities that reflect what peers in intact families may experience and supported in their pursuit of post-secondary education and training. The IL program seeks to connect youth who have experienced foster care at 14 or older with supportive, caring adults to form meaningful relationships that will outlast the youth's time in foster care, and to support youth who have left foster care at age 18 in their efforts to achieve self-sufficiency through taking increased personal responsibility for the management of their lives as they transition to adulthood.

This policy provides guidance to Nevada's Child Welfare Agencies regarding required IL case management responsibilities for youth in foster care ages 14 through 17. These requirements are consistent with Federal and State laws, and other existing Statewide Child Welfare Policies.

AUTHORITY

Federal: [8 USC §§ 1101-1178](#); [8 CFR 204](#); [42 USC § 675](#); [42 USC § 677](#); [42 USC § 1396](#); [45 CFR 1356](#); [Foster Care Independence Act of 1999](#); [Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008](#); [Child and Family Services Improvement and Innovation Act](#); [Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act](#); [Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015](#); [The Family First Prevention Services Act within Division E, Title VII of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018](#)

NAC: [NAC 432](#); [NAC 432B.400](#); [NAC 432B.410](#)

NRS: [NRS 422.2717](#); [NRS 432.032](#); [NRS 432.033](#); [NRS 432.0395](#); [NRS 432.520](#); [NRS 432.525](#); [NRS 432.530](#); [NRS 432.535](#); [NRS 432.540](#); [NRS 432.545](#); [NRS 432.548](#); [NRS 432.550](#); [NRS 432B.174](#);
Other: [Administration for Children and Families, Log No: ACYF-CB-IM-19-03](#); [79th Nevada Legislative Session, Assembly Bill 142](#); [80th Nevada Legislative Session, Assembly Bill 176 & Senate Bill 368](#)

DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this policy, the terms “child” and “youth” may be used interchangeably.

Agency which Provides Child Welfare Services: In a county whose population is less than 100,000, the agency is a local office of the Division of Child and Family Services; or in a county whose population is 100,000 or more, the agency of the county, which provides or arranges for necessary child welfare services. May also be referred to as “Agency” or “Child Welfare Agency”.

Chafee Program: Abbreviated title for the John H. Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood, the federal foundation of the statewide independent living program. The Chafee Foster Care Independent Living Program assists states and localities in establishing and carrying out programs designed to assist foster youth likely to remain in foster care. Services are available to youth who are 14 or older while currently in foster care and to former foster care youth who aged-out of the foster care system at age 18. Services are also available to youth who were adopted or obtained a guardianship on or after their 16th birthday. Young people who meet the above criteria and have aged-out may continue receiving services until age 21.

Commercial Sex Act: The giving or receiving of anything of value (money, drugs, shelter, food, clothes, etc.) to any person in exchange for a sex act (as defined in the federal Tracking Victims Protection Act).

Dual Custody Youth: Youth who are simultaneously in the custody of a Child Welfare Agency, as well as wards of the Juvenile Justice System. May be referred to as “Cross over youth (COY)”. (Division of Child and Family Services – Youth Parole Bureau).

Education and Training Voucher (ETV): Part of the Chafee Program, ETV provides up to \$5,000 per year of flexible funds to eligible youth who are participating in post-secondary education or training, for a maximum of 5 years or 10 semesters. Eligibility for this national benefit terminates at age 26.

Grievance: An official record of complaint over a child’s perceived violation of their rights, including those pursuant to NRS 432.525; NRS 432.530; and NRS 432.535. May be provided to any actor within the child welfare system, a member of a juvenile court with jurisdiction over the child, or the child’s attorney.

Independent Living Meeting: For youth age 14 and above, a meeting that reviews the assessment of youth IL skills and needs, documents the programs and services provided by a Child Welfare Agency to meet these needs, and sets and reviews youth progress toward transitional plan goals. On at least an annual basis, the IL meeting will contain a review of the youth’s credit reports, reassess the youth’s IL skills and needs, update transition goals and the current programs and services in place based on the youth’s progress toward these goals. Whenever possible, youth should lead their own IL meetings, and are encouraged to involve two supportive adults who are not the caseworker, IL Worker or foster parent in the development of their transitional plans.

Independent Living (IL) Services: Services including assessment and referral to appropriate services designed to teach basic life skills and provide opportunities to: enhance a youth’s capacity to make appropriate decisions; form meaningful connections with supportive adults; participate in religious, cultural and developmentally appropriate activities that reflect what peers

in intact families may experience; and to participate in employment and post-secondary education and training.

Independent Living Transitional Plan (ILTP): The document used to identify both long-term goals and short-term objectives and correlated services to prepare the youth for adulthood, which is completed annually or more frequently. When completed after age 17.5, it is also the written plan that addresses both the federal requirements for transition planning 90 days prior to a youth leaving foster care, along with addressing the goals required by State law for youth who choose to remain under Court Jurisdiction at age 18.

Independent Living (IL) Worker: The Child Welfare Agency caseworker or contracted Agency coordinating required case management activities for the IL Program. May provide services to the youth directly, or coordinate referral with other service providers in the youth's community.

Missing Child: A person under the age of 18 years who has run away or is otherwise missing from the lawful care, custody and control of a parent or guardian ([NRS 432.150\(4\)](#)).

Normalcy for Foster Youth Account: A dedicated account that may accept donations or State General Fund revenue to allow youth in foster care to participate in extracurricular, cultural or personal enrichment activities ([NRS 432B.174](#)).

Permanency Goal: The hierarchy of permanency goal options that ensure legal and emotional permanency for a child, which are in descending order of priority: 1) Reunification; 2) Adoption; 3) Legal Guardianship; 4) Permanent placement with a fit and willing relative; and 5) Other Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (OPPLA). Selection of this goal requires that the child be at least sixteen (16) years old and compelling reasons be documented to the court explaining why permanency goals 1-4 are not an option.

Post-Secondary Education: Education taking place following graduation from high school or attainment of equivalent education. Term includes participation at community colleges, liberal arts colleges, universities, vocational schools, trade schools, formal apprenticeships, institutes of technology, or professional school or credentialing institutions. May also include college or university level courses completed concurrently with a youth's secondary education.

Runaway: A child whose whereabouts are currently unknown and who is believed to have left his or her placement voluntarily.

Siblings: Are children who have one or more parents in common either biologically, through adoption, or through the marriage of their parents, and with whom the child lived before his or her foster care placement, or with who the child would be expected to live if the child were not in foster care.

Sex Trafficking: The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, obtaining, patronizing or soliciting of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act. The commercial sexual exploitation of a child (CSEC), also referred to as child sex trafficking, is defined by federal law as a form of child sexual abuse, and involves the recruitment, harboring, transporting, provision or obtaining of a person under 18 years of age for a commercial sex act (i.e., when something of value is given to or received by any person). Force, fraud or coercion are not necessary for child sex trafficking. CSEC includes child prostitution, child pornography, trafficking of children for sexual purposes, child sex tourism, and forced marriage (Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act).

State: An alternate word for the Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS) or Family Programs Office (FPO).

Supervisor/Manager: Staff with direct oversight over case-carrying child welfare staff, specialized support staff, or their supervisors.

STANDARDS/PROCEDURES

Training

Initial Training Requirements:

1. All IL Workers and Supervisors/Managers are subject to the training requirements listed in [Statewide Policy 1402: Training Policy](#), and are encouraged to develop a training plan timely upon hire to ensure these are completed within prescribed deadlines.
2. All IL Workers and Supervisors/Managers are required to complete the following trainings within their first year of assignment to the IL Program:
 - a. Nevada Independent Living Program Training (please contact the Independent Living Program Specialist at il@dcfs.nv.gov to schedule).
 - b. Motivational Interviewing.
 - c. Positive Youth Development.

Ongoing Training Requirements:

1. All IL Workers and Supervisors/Managers are subject to the ongoing training requirements set forth in [Statewide Policy 1402: Training Policy](#).
2. To advance from journey level IL Worker to the Supervisor/Manager level, it is recommended that staff complete the following trainings:
 - a. National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD) training (please contact the Independent Living Program Specialist at il@dcfs.nv.gov to schedule).
 - b. JBS International CQI Training Academy: Foundations of Continuous Quality Improvement (available on the [Child Welfare Collaborative](#) Website).
 - c. Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) Reviewer training, at the discretion of your jurisdictional Continuous Quality Improvement staff.

Youth Eligibility for Independent Living

1. All youth in the custody of a child welfare agency who are over age 14 are eligible for participation in the IL Program until the date they reunify with their caregivers or emancipate from foster care, regardless of their state of origin.
2. Youth who left foster care after age 18 but are under age 21, and all youth who exit foster care after the age of 16 and do not reunify with their parents, are eligible for referral to IL Services under the Chafee program; this includes adoption and guardianship. This also includes such benefits as participation in the ETV program (if exiting care over age 16) and Medicaid coverage (if exiting care after age 18), under Nevada's Aged-Out Medicaid program.
3. Youth who are/were in the custody of a Nevada child welfare agency at age 14 or older may be eligible for the Nevada System of Higher Education's Foster Youth Fee Waiver, which covers the majority of the course enrollment fees (i.e. the cost of enrolling in classes) for eligible students. The fee waiver can be utilized at any of the seven (7) public degree-granting colleges or universities in Nevada, statewide. Youth who are currently, or who were formerly, involved in the foster care system anywhere nationally may be eligible for support at their campus, regardless of fee waiver eligibility, and should speak to the Foster Youth Fee Waiver representative for their college/university about potential resources. More information about the NSHE Foster Youth Success Initiative, including Foster Youth Fee Waiver eligibility requirements, the contact information for the NSHE Foster Youth Ambassador, and the foster youth-focused representatives at each college/university can be found here: <https://nshe.nevada.edu/initiatives/foster-youth/> . Ensure youth on your IL case load receive information regarding their exit from foster care at case closure (i.e. court order, Aged-Out Letter, etc.).

4. All youth over age 14 who are residing in Nevada and have lived foster care experience are eligible to participate in [Nevada LIFE](#) (Leaders In Future Excellence) – Nevada’s self-governing statewide youth advisory board.

Referral of Youth to the Independent Living Program (ILP)

1. Youth who are in foster care and reach the age of 14 must be assigned to the ILP within forty-five (45) days of their birthday.
2. When a youth is older than 14 when entering the custody of a child welfare agency, they must be assigned to the ILP within forty-five (45) days of entry into foster care.
3. On a monthly basis, the IL Supervisor/Manager must compile a list of all youth who:
 - a. Attained the age of 14 while in the custody of the child welfare agency; and
 - b. Entered child welfare custody over the age of 14;
 - c. Are currently requiring IL services pursuant to [Statewide Policy 0201: Intra-State Courtesy Supervision](#); and who,
 - d. Are currently residing in Nevada per an ICPC Agreement and are over the age of 14.
4. Based on the time frames for each youth as detailed above, the IL Supervisor/Manager must refer this list of youth to the ILP in UNITY via the IL Referral Maintenance page, IL112.

Intake & Assessment

Accommodations or Exceptions to the ILP: There are very rare circumstances when a youth may be unable to participate in IL services without reasonable accommodation of a youth’s individual needs; these circumstances may be temporary or ongoing. There must be proper explanation and documentation in the youth’s file and in UNITY, and the exception or adjustment to services to meet the developmentally or emotional needs must be approved by an IL Supervisor/Manager. Such circumstances include, but are not limited to:

1. The youth has significant medical problems or a severe developmental disability that cannot be reasonably accommodated to the point where the youth can meaningfully participate in the ILP. Youth should be reassessed as needed for capacity to participate in the ILP and the results of this assessment recorded in UNITY.
 - a. This does not include the youth who can still utilize IL services if accommodations can be made. For example, the IL worker can help provide a youth with skill building, finding appropriate adult connections, participating in developmentally appropriate activities, housing options for their specific needs, etc.)
2. The youth has significant behavioral or mental health concerns which hinder the youth’s ability to actively participate in the ILP. The IL Worker will make efforts to engage the youth as appropriate to their needs and assess what services can be provided. The IL Worker and/or caseworker should continue to engage the youth in program participation on going based on internal Agency policy and procedures and documenting efforts to engage in UNITY.
3. The youth is a missing child as defined in [NRS 432.150](#). The IL Worker should partner with the caseworker and other staff in locating the youth and document efforts in UNITY. (Refer also to [Statewide Policy 0210: Reporting, Locating and Responding to Missing Children](#)).
4. The youth is refusing to participate in the ILP. The IL Worker and/or caseworker should consider using motivational interviewing skills to continue to engage the youth in program participation on going based on internal Agency policy and procedures and documenting efforts to engage in UNITY.

The First Meeting:

1. IL Workers are encouraged to check their referrals daily to ensure youth are contacted within ten (10) days of referral to schedule a face-to-face meeting with the youth, their caregiver, and any supportive adults the youth wishes to include.
2. At the first meeting, the IL Worker will explain the ILP, answer any questions the youth or their CFT may have, and provide a copy of the Foster Care Bill of Rights (refer to attachment FPO 0801B -Foster Care Bill of Rights) and Sibling Bill of Rights to the youth.
3. The IL Worker will answer any questions the youth or their CFT has regarding their rights, and ensure the youth is familiar with the child welfare agency's grievance procedure.
4. The IL Worker will explain that since the youth is over 14 and has foster care experience, they are invited to participate in two different levels of self-governing youth advisory boards: one at their local level, and the Statewide youth advisory board, Nevada LIFE. IL Workers will explain the role of the youth advisory board and share any information or promotional materials that may be available.

Assessing Youth IL Needs

Assessing youth needs is both an initial and ongoing process, using both formal tools and informal means. In order to effectively assess a youth's IL needs, an IL Worker must encourage the youth to take an ownership of their own ILTP as they are the expert in their goals for adulthood, and their current capacity to achieve them.

1. Developmentally appropriate assessments must be conducted within forty-five (45) days of the youth's assignment to their IL Worker.
2. The State requires the completion of the Casey Life Skills (CLS) Assessment to inform the ILTP. It is available online here: https://caseylifeskills.secure.force.com/clsa_homepage. The IL Worker may be required to complete additional assessments at the discretion of their child welfare agency. A copy of these assessments should remain in the youth's file.
3. The CLS must be completed independently by the youth if able, and also, whenever possible, by their caretaker or other adults important to the youth. Each child welfare agency has its own unique organizational ID so that IL Supervisors/Managers may assign IL Workers their own account for use on the CLS website linked above. If a youth is unable to complete the CLS independently, please staff with your IL Supervisor.
4. Through engaged discussions with the youth, the IL Worker should informally assess for special considerations that should be incorporated throughout the youth's ILTP and their time in the ILP. These may include (but are not limited to) if the youth:
 - a. Is a person with a substance use disorder;
 - b. Identifies as a member of the LGBT+ community;
 - c. Is a CSEC survivor or at risk of becoming a victim of sex trafficking;
 - d. Is involved with the Juvenile Justice system or is a Dual Custody youth;
 - e. Identifies as a potential member of any Tribe;
 - f. Is part of an ICPC Agreement (either incoming to Nevada or being placed in another state);
 - g. Is pregnant, parenting, or about to become a father
 - h. Is a Special Immigrant Juvenile (DACA applicant or undocumented eligible youth);
 - i. Identifies with a culture that is not dominant in their placement community;
 - j. Experiences a disabling condition; or
 - k. Practices a religion or feels connected to a particular faith.
5. The results of the assessments for special considerations should be reflected on the youth's ILTP. If the youth is comfortable with the inclusion of goal-setting around these areas, special case planning considerations can also be included on the ILTP as specific goals, and

discussed with the rest of the CFT so that they may team in supporting the youth toward achievement of these goals.

6. A youth may not be comfortable including these special considerations on their ILTP as formal goals. In these cases, the special consideration should be case noted in UNITY, and a discussion had with the youth about how to best share this special consideration with their CFT. The ILP offers broad ability to tailor programming based on the needs of the youth, and IL. In every case, a youth with special considerations should lead the discussion of the ILP response to these considerations.
7. Youth must be re-assessed annually before the completion of their ILTP, which should be adapted based on the results of this, or any other formal or informal assessments.
8. If the youth's circumstances, goals, or skill levels change significantly, the IL Worker should reassess the youth, facilitate an IL Meeting if appropriate, and update the ILTP. This may occur more frequently than the annual requirement and should be reviewed as a matter of professional course by IL Supervisors.

Developing the Independent Living Transitional Plan (ILTP)

The ILTP is developed in addition to a youth's family case plan and permanency plan and is submitted to court and attached to Intra-State Courtesy ILP and outgoing ICPC requests.

1. Whenever possible, the youth should lead the development of their own ILTP based on the requirements below, with the support and direction of their IL Worker.
2. The ILTP must be individualized with the youth based on the results of the Casey Life Skills Assessment and any other assessments, any special considerations facing the youth, and the youth's individual areas of strength and personal growth.
3. The ILTP must be developed within 30 days of completing the Casey Life Skills Assessment
4. The ILTP directs goal setting in preparation for transition to adulthood in the areas of: achieving permanency; education; employment; parenting; health management; money management; housing; life skills development; family and community connections; leadership development; developmentally-appropriate enrichment and normalcy activities, and obtainment of personal documents. Whenever possible, ILTP goals should mirror those in the youth's family case plan and permanency plan.
5. Goals should be SMART (Refer also to Statewide Policy 0205: Caseworker Contact with Children, Parents and Caregivers):
 - a. **Specific:** The youth, IL Worker and CFT should have a clear idea of what the goal is.
 - b. **Measurable:** Everyone should know when the goal has been achieved, or what progress the youth has made toward the goal.
 - c. **Achievable:** The youth should reasonably be able to achieve the goal within 1 year.
 - d. **Realistic:** The youth's areas of strength, existing skills and areas for personal growth should be used to inform a feasible goal.
 - e. **Time-Limited:** All goals should be able to be completed before the update of the youth's ILTP in the next year.
6. Prior to signing their ILTP, youth should be provided a copy of their rights and an opportunity to ask any questions surrounding their rights in care, and a child welfare agency's grievance process. A youth's signature on their ILTP indicates that they have been provided and understand their rights.
7. If a youth is unable to sign their ILTP or other documentation due to a limiting condition, the following members of the CFT should be asked to sign on behalf of the youth to indicate the documents were completed with the input and wishes of the youth:

- a. A youth's Power of Attorney, if one has been appointed;
- b. A supportive adult of the youth's choosing who will assist in the case plan goals;
- c. The youth's Attorney;
- d. The youth's Guardian ad Litem/CASA.

The signatory will write "for" on the youth's signature line, print their name and relationship to the youth, and sign on this line to indicate the youth's acceptance of the document.

ILP Case Management

ILP case management activities may be continuous even after the child welfare case is closed. The IL worker assists the youth with the implementation of the ILTP through monitoring, performing case coordination, service referral, and facilitating the youth's participation in ILP activities.

The purposes of case management are to:

- a. Participate in CFT meetings with youth, and encourage the participation of supportive adults in the youth's life;
- b. Track progress toward goals and offer direct guidance, assistance and referrals to services when needed;
- c. Ensure that developmentally appropriate assessments are completed on at least an annual basis;
- d. Initiate IL planning team meetings for initial planning and when the ILTP requires goal revision or modification (at least annually);
- e. Provide or ensure referral to structured programming and skill-building activities, and facilitate youth participation in semi-structured and youth-directed activities to support their development of the skills required for successful transition to adulthood;
- f. Assure that youth are participating in age or developmentally appropriate activities that are generally accepted as suitable for children of the same chronological age or level of maturity ([Refer to Statewide Policy 1011: Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard/Normalcy](#));
- g. Assist the youth in finding appropriate adult permanent connections within their social circle and the larger community;
- h. Assist the youth in participating in age and developmentally appropriate activities that approximate the experiences of their peers who do not have experience in foster care;
- i. Document all youth's IL activities, youth progress notes, IL worker contacts, and programming and services delivered in UNITY within 5 business days ([Refer to Statewide Policy 0205: Case Worker Contact](#));
- j. Ensure that if a youth has run away and/or has identified themselves as being a victim of CSEC or at risk of CSEC, the youth's primary caseworker is informed as soon as possible. ([Refer to Statewide Policy 0214: Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children \(CSEC\)](#) and [Statewide Policy 0210 Reporting, Locating and Responding to Missing Children](#));
- k. Ensure that the most recent ILTP and any other supporting documentation indicated are prepared and submitted to the court to demonstrate services that are being provided and the preparation process that is in place to assist the youth's successful transition into adulthood;
- l. Provide a copy of any credit report (without cost) to every youth in foster care over age 14 annually until they exit foster care, and assist in resolving credit reporting issues;
- m. Coordinate with other actors in the youth's life to collaboratively address progress goals (this may include those in the Juvenile Justice system, public or private education system, medical or mental health treatment providers, and other child welfare agency staff).
- n. If a youth is experiencing a medical, mental or behavioral health concern, ensure that the youth is aware of their treatment plan, and their medical rights surrounding their treatment. Assess their ability to independently care for their health conditions.

([Refer to Statewide Policy 0205: Case Worker Contact](#); and [Statewide Policy 0209: Psychiatric Care and Treatment](#)).

- o. Engage the youth in sharing with their child and family team if it appears the youth's current behavior may pose a risk to the continued safety of themselves and/or others, and support the youth in accessing services to remain safe and stable.
- p. Ensure that all required activities surrounding a youth's transition from foster care to adulthood are completed timely. (Please see Statewide Policy 802: Youth Independent Living Program: Ages 17 and Older for more information).

Special Case Management Circumstances Requiring Additional Actions

Special Immigrant Juveniles

For youth who are in foster care and:

- a. Are under age 21;
- b. Unmarried;
- c. Who will not reunify with either parent, nor return to their nation of citizenship before leaving foster care at 18 or older; and
- d. Who are not a citizen of the United States protected by any other immigration status.

The child welfare agency will work with the youth and their legal counsel to petition for a change of status to a SIJ on behalf of the youth, if it is found that the youth meets the eligibility criteria as defined in the [USCIS Policy Manual, Volume 6, Part J, Chapter 2\(A\)](#). Without this change of status, youth who age-out of foster care may be subject to legal action up to and including removal proceedings from the United States.

1. The Agency will assess for SIJ eligibility as soon as possible upon a child's entry into care. The IL Worker will participate in this assessment with the child welfare agency if a youth is over age 14 and will assist with the timely processing of applications with the United States Customs and Immigration (USCIS) as needed. This process includes:
 - a. The requirement to request the Court make the factual findings necessary to enable a child to apply for status as a SIJ at a 432B hearing prior to age-out.
 - b. The USCIS Policy Manual, Volume 6, Part J-Special Immigrant Juveniles as located online at: <https://www.uscis.gov/policymanual/HTML/PolicyManual-Volume6-PartJ.html>.
 - c. Form I-360, Petition for Amerasian, Widow(er) or Special Immigrant. (Available online here: <https://www.uscis.gov/i-360>).
 - d. Form I-485, Application to Register Permanent Residence or Adjust Status. (Available online here: <https://www.uscis.gov/i-485>).
 - e. Form I-765, Application for Employment Authorization. (Available online here: <https://www.uscis.gov/i-765>).
 - f. Form G-28, Notice of Entry of Appearance as Attorney or Accredited Representative. (Available online here: <https://www.uscis.gov/g-28>).
 - g. Form G-1145, E-Notification of Application/Petition Acceptance. (Available online here: <https://www.uscis.gov/g-1145>).

All USCIS forms may be filed concurrently with the supporting documentation and appropriate filing fees included. Youth over age 14 should be provided copies of all USCIS documentation about their SIJ status applications.

Youth with A Compromised Credit Report

1. On a monthly basis, the Independent Living Program Specialist (ILPS) or designee will upload youth credit files into UNITY. Youth credit files will contain reports from the three national credit reporting agencies: TransUnion, Equifax and Experian.
2. The ILPS or designee will email jurisdictional IL Supervisors once the monthly reports have been uploaded into UNITY.

3. IL Workers will check UNITY monthly to review all uploaded credit reports for their child welfare jurisdiction. The IL Worker will identify youth on their caseload with an uploaded credit report completed that month and assist the youth in interpreting and resolving any inaccuracies found on their reports.
4. If there is any evidence that there has been misuse of the youth's information and someone has committed fraud/identity theft, each jurisdiction must report this to the Attorney General's Office. The Attorney General's Office requests that child welfare agencies obtain a police report number prior to filing a Request for Investigation with their office. The IL Worker will contact their local law enforcement agency's non-emergency line to file a report.
5. After obtaining a police report number, the IL Worker will complete the "Request for Investigation" form to file a report with the Attorney General's Office, so that they may investigate and assist in removing any erroneous information from the youth's credit report(s). Please refer to Attachment FPO0801C: Request for Investigation.
6. Submit the form and supporting documentation required to the Investigative Assistant via fax to 775-486-0660. The occurrence should be documented in UNITY, including additional follow up or correspondence with the Attorney General's Office or credit issuing agency.

Youth Involved in the Juvenile Justice System/Dual Custody Youth

Foster youth who are involved in Juvenile Justice or who are Dual Custody Youth due to placement in a foster care setting are entitled to the same IL programming and services as any other youth in care. IL Workers are encouraged to work collaboratively with the youth's supervising Officer and the Child Welfare Agency of jurisdiction to ensure the youth receives programming, services, and that case plan goals are aligned between agencies to support the youth's success.

Youth Remaining in Foster Care After Age 17

Youth remaining in foster care after age 17 and through to the attainment of adulthood have additional transition planning and case closure needs, above what is required for youth leaving foster care between ages 14 and 17. Please refer to Statewide Policy 802: Youth Independent Living Program, Ages 17 and Over for additional IL Program requirements for youth remaining in foster care after age 17.

JURISDICTIONAL ACTION

Child Welfare Agency Responsibilities

1. An agency which provides child welfare services is responsible for enforcing the adherence of this policy by their workforce.
2. An agency which provides child welfare services is responsible for providing each new staff person with an orientation to the ILP and their position.
3. An agency which provides child welfare services is responsible for ensuring the participation and performance of their workforce in any Federal or State requests for program data, training, continuous quality improvement activities, and/or participation in state planning efforts relative to the ILP.

IL Supervisor/Manager Responsibilities

1. The supervisors of those staff engaged in the ILP, and the managers of those supervisors are responsible for monitoring and enforcing the adherence of this policy by their direct and indirect reports through:
 - a. Ongoing daily monitoring of IL programming, staff and youth clients.
 - b. Conducting routine supervision activities designed to monitor staff performance to policy requirements, to coach staff in support of their ongoing professional development, to monitor youth outcomes, and to provide timely information and support to IL Workers experiencing difficulties in a particular case circumstance.
 - c. Conducting routine continuous quality improvement activities designed to improve programmatic performance and services to youth.

FAMILY PROGRAMS OFFICE RESPONSIBILITIES

1. The Family Programs Office is responsible for oversight and adherence to federal and state law, regulation, administrative or court ruling(s).
2. The Family Programs Office is responsible for training and providing technical assistance to IL staff as required by state law or regulation.
3. The Family Programs Office is responsible for providing information relative for federal and state plan compliance with providing outcome data to support continuous quality improvement activities designed to improve the quality of programming and services offered to youth.

POLICY CROSS REFERENCE

Policies: [0201 Intra-State Courtesy Supervision](#)
[0204 Permanency and Case Planning](#)
[0205 Case Worker Contact](#)
[0210 Reporting, Locating and Responding to Missing Children](#)
[0213 Visitation Policy](#)
[0214 Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children \(CSEC\)](#)
[0701 ICPC](#)
0802 Youth Independent Living Program: Ages 17 and Over
[1011 Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard/Normalcy](#)
[1402 Training Policy](#)

History and Updates: This policy was effective 10/01/2015. It was rewritten and updated 9/16/2016 and 11/16/2020.

ATTACHMENTS

FPO 0801A – Youth Independent Living Transitional Plan
FPO 0801B – Foster Care Bill of Rights
FPO 0801C – Request for Investigation



CLARK COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY SERVICES

121 South Martin Luther King Blvd
Las Vegas, Nevada 89106
(702) 455-5444

AGREEMENT TO CONTINUE COURT JURISDICTION

This agreement is entered into by and between Clark County Department of Family Services (hereinafter referred to as "CCDFS") and , a person over the age of eighteen (18) (hereinafter referred to as "YOUNG ADULT").

WHEREAS, AB350 requires CCDFS and the YOUNG ADULT to enter into an agreement;

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual benefits, the parties agree as follows:

- 1.1 YOUNG ADULT has requested that the court retain jurisdiction over the YOUNG ADULT.
1.2 While Under the jurisdiction of the court, the YOUNG ADULT is entitled to continue to receive services from CCDFS as designated in the plan developed pursuant to Section 19 of AB350.
1.3 While under the jurisdiction of the court, the YOUNG ADULT is entitled to receive monetary payments from CCDFS either directly or to another entity as designated in the plan developed pursuant to Section 19 of AB350.
1.4 No monetary payments from CCDFS to the YOUNG ADULT or another entity shall exceed the rate of payment for foster care.
1.5 YOUNG ADULT may, at any time, request that jurisdiction over the child be terminated.
1.6 YOUNG ADULT and CCDFS agree that prior to requesting a hearing with the Court the parties will attempt to resolve the issue without court intervention.
1.7 This agreement will terminate when the Court's jurisdiction is terminated in accordance with the provisions of AB350.
1.8 YOUNG ADULT agrees to participate directly in designing his program activities to transition from foster care to economic self-sufficiency and accept responsibility for achieving self-sufficiency. This includes, but is not limited to, participating in the development and implementation of the YOUNG ADULT'S plan developed in accordance with Section 19 of AB350.
1.9 YOUNG ADULT agrees not to engage in any illegal or criminal activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this Agreement on the respective date(s) set forth below their signatures.

SIGNATURE OF YOUNG ADULT DATE
CASE MANAGER DATE
CASE MANAGER SUPERVISOR DATE

INDEPENDENT LIVING TRANSITIONAL PLAN

The Independent Living Transitional Plan (ILTP) must be personalized at the direction of the youth and be as detailed as the youth chooses. This plan is intended to prepare the youth for transition to adulthood.

This plan is to be provided to the court at the next scheduled hearing.

Youth Name:

Case ID:

Preferred Pronoun:

Date of Birth:

IL Worker:

Youth Phone Number:

Primary Case Manager:

Youth Current Placement:

Attorney:

Youth Email Address:

AGE		LIFE SKILLS ASSESSMENT	INDEPENDENT LIVING PLAN	CREDIT REPORTS
14	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A	Date:	Date:	Date:
15	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A	Date:	Date:	Date:
16	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A	Date:	Date:	Date:
17	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A	Date:	Date:	Date:
90-day	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A		Date:	

DISCREPANCY/FRAUD WAS IDENTIFIED ON THE YOUTH'S CREDIT REPORTS:

NO

YES – EXPLAIN:

REQUEST FOR INVESTIGATION SUBMITTED TO ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE ON:

PERSONAL DOCUMENTATION	ON FILE	WITH YOUTH	N/A	NOTES
Birth Certificate	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Social Security Card	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Medicaid Card	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
State ID or Permit/License	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Immunization Record	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Proof of Tribal Enrollment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Proof of Residency or Citizenship	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Foster Care Verification Letter	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Other Documentation				

REFERRED TO LOCAL AND STATE YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD (YAB):

NO – EXPLAIN:

YES – DATE:

Exception to IL Services:

The youth is on runaway status, on these dates:

The youth is incapable of participating in IL services due to severe medical problems or severe disability.

My strengths are:

I need assistance with:

I can resolve this by:

I have received a copy of my rights in care and the complaint/grievance process:

Yes Date: _____

No Explain: _____

INITIAL: _____

AGE 14+

Date:

1. PERMANENCY PLAN:

My permanency plan is _____ and I understand what it means:

Yes No (See Explanation)

Date: _____

My concurrent plan is _____ and I understand what it means:

Yes No (See Explanation)

Date: _____

I am participating in court as desired, and know my rights:

Yes No (See Explanation)

Date: _____

Explanation: _____

2. FAMILY AND OTHER PERMANENT/LASTING CONNECTIONS:

These are the adults who I contact for support and may be available to provide support now and in the future:

Name(s):

Date:

Name(s):

Date:

Name(s):

Date:

Name(s):

Date:

Name(s):

Date:

Name(s):

Date:

There are people I don't have contact with that I would like to have a relationship with:

No Yes If yes, who: _____

Is there anything stopping or holding me back from being involved in any of these permanent connections:

No Yes If yes, explain: _____

There are things that I want to learn or am worried about regarding contact with my biological family or others now or in the future: No Yes If yes, explain: _____

Updated: _____

Goals:

Action steps needed to complete goals:	Responsible Party	Date to be completed:
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3. COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS:

I am/would like to be involved in community or in extra-curricular activities/groups: Yes No
 If yes, please describe:

I am/would like to be involved in a spiritual support/church/religious organization or interest: Yes No
 If yes, please describe:

I am/would like to be involved in a cultural interest (ethnicity, tribal, LGBTQ+): Yes No
 If yes, please describe:

Other areas in which I would like to become active in:

I identify with the LGBTQ+ community Yes No I do not want to answer.

I would like to be connected to an LGBTQ+ resources or services Yes No
 If yes, explain:

Updated:

Goals:

Action steps needed to complete goals:	Responsible Party	Date to be completed:
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4. HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION:

I am currently enrolled in and attending school: Yes No

If yes, where:

Current grade level:

Current GPA:

Number of current credits:

Number of credits needed to graduate:

Anticipated graduation date:

I will obtain a high school diploma or H.S.E. prior to transitioning out of foster care: Yes No

If no, explain:

I have obtained a high school diploma or H.S.E.: Yes No

If yes,

School Attended:

Date Obtained:

I have a current IEP/504: Yes No N/A

If yes, I know what my accommodations are: Yes No

Last updated:

I am interested in exploring vocational training: Yes No

If yes, explain:

Updated:

Goals:

Action steps needed to complete goals:

Responsible Party

Date to be completed:

5. HEALTH SERVICES:

I have medical or other health needs that need treatment (dental, vision, sexual health, mental health, substance use):

Yes No

I have an identified illness, medical diagnosis, and/or mental health need: Yes No N/A

If yes, explain and include all current medication:

I am up to date on all my appointments including a physical exam within the last 12 months: Yes No

My next appointment is scheduled:

My providers are:

Physician:	Phone Number:
Dentist:	Phone Number:
Vision:	Phone Number:
Mental Health Provider:	Phone Number:
Person Legally Responsible (PLR):	Phone Number:
OBGYN (if applicable):	Phone Number:
Other:	Phone Number:
Other:	Phone Number:
Other:	Phone Number:
Other:	Phone Number:

I know how to continue to access my health providers and manage my medications: Yes No

Updated:

Goals:

Action steps needed to complete goals:

Responsible Party

Date to be completed:

6. PARENTING:

I understand preventing pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases: Yes No

My current birth control plan is:

I am an expectant parent or parenting:

No Yes EXPECTANT PARENT – due date:
 Yes PARENTING – number of children and ages:

I have custody of my child(ren): Yes No

If no, explain:

I co-parent with:

The custody plan or other arrangements with my co-parent are:

My childcare plan is:

I have people who will help in caring for my child if I need assistance: Yes No

If yes, who:

I have the supplies needed to care for my child(ren) (diapers, wipes, formula, clothing etc.): Yes No

I would like to take parenting classes: Yes No

I need a referral(s) to community resources in my area: Yes No

Updated:

Goals:

Action steps needed to complete goals:

**Responsible
Party**

Date to be completed:

7. Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Retirement, Survivors, and Disability Insurance (RSDI) ELIGIBILITY:

I am receiving RSDI (survivors' benefits or disability benefits from a parent):

No, but I should be receiving RSDI N/A Yes – Explain:
Amount:
Payee:

I need an initial RSDI application: Yes No

I have a trust fund account for RSDI income: Yes No

I need assistance with the continuation of RSDI benefits until graduation: Yes No

I am receiving SSI income:

No, but I should be receiving SSI N/A Yes – Explain:
Amount:
Payee:

I need an initial SSI application: Yes No

I have a trust fund account for SSI income: Yes No

I need assistance with the adult determination or the continuation of benefits until graduation: Yes No

I am receiving services such as SRC/RRC/DRC:

No, but I should be receiving SRC/RRC/DRC N/A Yes – Explain:
Case Manager:
Payee:

I need a referral for services such as SRC/RRC/DRC: Yes No

Updated:

Goals:

Action steps needed to complete goals:

**Responsible
Party**

Date to be completed:

8. PROBATION/PAROLE INVOLVEMENT:

I am involved in probation or parole:

No

Yes – Explain:

Adjudication date:

Anticipated termination date:

Probation or parole officer:

Probation or parole requirements:

Updated:

Goals:

Action steps needed to complete goals:

**Responsible
Party**

Date to be completed:

AGES 15+

Date:

9. WORKFORCE & EMPLOYMENT SERVICE:

I am working. Yes No

Where:

Number of hours worked per week:

Hourly wage: \$

I have worked previously, and the job ended. No Yes If yes, where/circumstances:

I am looking for work. Yes No

If yes, Part time Full-time

Type of work sought:

I have a current resume: Yes No

I know how to complete a job application: Yes No

I am confident in attending a job interview: Yes No If no, Explain:

I need help getting documents and certifications to seek employment (i.e. Health Card, Sherriff's Card, First Aid etc.)

No Yes If yes, Explain:

I have challenges that may limit my ability to get or keep a job.

No Yes If yes, Explain

I am interested in pursuing a career in the following:

I would like additional information in my career fields of interest or completing a career assessment: Yes No

I want to develop a plan for volunteering, internship, apprenticeship, or enrolling in a workforce program to obtain the necessary skills for employment: Yes No

If yes, Explain:

I am interested in Military Service: No Yes Branch:

Explain:

Updated:

Goals:

Action steps needed to complete goals:

Responsible Party

Date to be completed:

10. MONEY MANAGEMENT, BUDGETING, & SAVINGS:

I have an income: No Yes, If yes, Explain:

I have a savings or checking account: Yes No Both

If Yes:

Bank Name:

Current Amount:

Individual Joint

If joint, the co-signer is:

If No:

I have money saved: Yes No

Current amount:

I would like to have a checking account: Yes No

I would like to have a savings account: Yes No

I have completed a monthly budget: Yes No

I am responsible for monthly expenses: Yes No

If yes, explain:

I can pay my monthly expenses with my current income: Yes No N/A

I am interested in learning about or need additional help with budgeting, banking, credit building, or other financial goals:

Yes No Explain:

Updated:

Goals:

Action steps needed to complete goals:

Responsible Party

Date to be completed:

11. TRANSPORTATION:

I have a current ID: Yes No

My address is current on my ID: Yes No

Updated:

Youth Who Are Not Driving

I have talked with my Team about driving: Yes No

I have the ability to get insurance: Yes No

I have taken Driver's Education: Yes No

If no, I am planning on taking it: Yes No (when/where)

Identify any barriers:

Currently:

Youth Who Are Driving

I have a driver's permit.

State: Expires:

I have completed permit hours: Yes No

If no, I have completed:

I have scheduled my driving test: Yes No

If yes, Date:

I have a driver's license.

State: Expires:

<input type="checkbox"/> I walk <input type="checkbox"/> I ride a bike <input type="checkbox"/> I use the public bus <input type="checkbox"/> I receive bus passes: Paid by <input type="checkbox"/> Other Transportation: Explain:	<input type="checkbox"/> I have a vehicle to drive. (Make/Model/Year): Owned by: <input type="checkbox"/> I have car insurance: Company: Cost/Schedule \$ Paid by: I have the ability to get insurance: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> I currently have a suspended license or moving violation tickets. Explain:
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Goals:

Action steps needed to complete goals:	Responsible Party	Date to be completed:

AGES 17+	Date:
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12. HOUSING:

I plan to transition out of my current residence within the next year: No Yes
 If yes, date:

I am currently residing in a: <input type="checkbox"/> licensed foster/relative home <input type="checkbox"/> unlicensed relative/fictive kin <input type="checkbox"/> group home <input type="checkbox"/> residential treatment <input type="checkbox"/> other: Explain:	My plan for stable housing is: <input type="checkbox"/> renting a room from current caregiver <input type="checkbox"/> living with a relative/fictive kin/friend <input type="checkbox"/> seeking own apartment <input type="checkbox"/> living in a dorm <input type="checkbox"/> other: Explain:
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I am interested in exploring transitional housing or further support, if available: Yes No
 Explain:

 Updated:

Goals:

Action steps needed to complete goals:	Responsible Party	Date to be completed:

13. Post-Secondary Education

I have a post-secondary education plan: Yes No
 If yes, my plan includes:

 I am interested in or have taken steps in exploring or visiting colleges/universities/vocational schools I would like to attend: Yes No

I have applied for post-secondary education: Yes No

If yes, where:

I have taken the ACT and/or SAT: Yes No

I have completed or reviewed eligibility and obtained appropriate documentation (Fee Waiver, Fact Sheet, Former Ward of the Court, ETV, etc.) for:

- FAFSA ETV Application Otto Huth Scholarship
 Millennium Scholarship Nevada Foster Youth Tuition Waiver Other:

If not, I plan to complete them by (date):

Updated:

Goals:

Action steps needed to complete goals:

Responsible Party

Date to be completed:

14. Post-18 Services Agreement completed:

- Yes Date:
 No Explain:

15. Aged-Out Medicaid completed:

- Yes Date:
 No Explain:

16. I have been informed of:

Date:

- The Selective Service Registration
 Voter Registration
 Health Care Power of Attorney Options

I have been informed of my right to receive:

Date

- Nevada ID Card
 Original (Certified) Birth Certificate
 Social Security Card
 Medicaid Card
 Custody Court Order
 Former Foster Care Status (Aged Out Letter)

17. NYTD FOLLOW-UP POPULATION:

- N/A Yes - 17 year old survey was completed on:

I, _____, (youth name) directed the development of my Independent Living Transitional Plan and understand that it must be updated yearly until I exit care.

I understand that if I have any questions, I may ask my caseworker and/or IL service provider.

Signature of Youth

Date

Signature of Case Manager

Date

Signature of IL Worker

Date

Signature of Attorney

Date

Other Signature

Date

Other Signature

Date

Other Signature

Date

Other Signature

Date

CHAFEE FUNDS

Chafee Enrichment Grant Funds are available to youth aged 14-18 who have a CURRENT Casey Assessment and Youth Plan on file. Chafee funds are never guaranteed.

Amounts available per fiscal year:

Youth age 14- limit is \$300

Youth age 16 – limit is \$400

Youth age 18 – limit is \$750

Youth age 15 – limit is \$350

Youth age 17 – limit is \$750

Any exception to the yearly limit requires the approval of the Manager or designee of the Independent Living Unit.

Eligible services and/or expenses for the use of funds:

Assistance in obtaining a high school diploma:

- Backpacks & school supplies
- Books, lab fees/materials, class fees, rentals, and PE uniforms
- Cap & gown
- Class ring & other senior items
- Computer software
- One (1) graduation ticket
- Laptop/tablet & accessories
- Proficiency preparation/tutoring
- ROTC uniform
- School/senior pictures & yearbooks
- School trips
- Summer school fees & books
- Tutoring for grade/credit deficiency

Career exploration:

- College preparation trips
- Drug testing for employment
- Fingerprint for employment
- Health cards
- I.D. cards
- PSAT/ACT/SAT fees & preparation classes
- Right to work (DREAMR, Registered Alien Card)
- TAM cards
- Uniform/work clothing (up to \$150 one time)
- Work permits

Training in daily living skills:

- Bed: mattress & box springs
- Cell Phones
- Dances, prom & special events
- Uniforms/Clothing (\$150 one time limit)
- Driving (DMV fees, education programs)
- Dormitory & housing costs
- Dresser
- Hair styling & manicures for homecoming, prom, graduation & special events
- Houseware items
- School extracurricular activities
- Storage bins

Substance abuse prevention, if not covered by Medicaid:

- Drug testing for counseling
- Therapeutic activities
- Therapeutic supplies
- Therapy/counseling

Prevention health activities, payable in monthly increments, including but not limited to:

- Dance classes
- Gym fees
- Karate
- YMCA membership

**Chafee Funds DO NOT cover medical expenses (contacts, braces, glasses, etc.), clothing, food, personal hygiene items, travel, monthly bills (rent, etc.), or sales tax.

**All requests MUST be accompanied by an appropriate invoice prior to IL Specialist submitting the request. Please allow a minimum of two (2) weeks for the processing of all requests.

**Fiscal year is July 1-June 30. All requests must be submitted prior to June 15 for end of year processing.