

DSS Policy and Procedure Guide

Division 03: Child Welfare

Chapter 04: Ongoing Case Management/Practice

Item 033 : Case Planning for Youth Approaching Age 17 Years, 5 Months

Suggested changes send to: [DSS PSOA Mailbox](#)

Issued: **May 18, 2012**

References: All County Letter 11-69

Replaces Issue: **New**

Policy

It is the responsibility of the Department of Social Services (DSS) Child Welfare case managing social workers (CM SW) to provide dependent youth who are approaching the age of majority with information on continuing in foster care as a Non-Minor Dependent (NMD) and to assist them with creating a case plan that will address the eligibility requirements of Extended Foster Care (EFC).

Purpose

To provide DSS Child Welfare social workers with guidance in completing the necessary AB 12 related case management tasks for youth who are approaching the age of majority.

Procedure

Case Managing Social Worker Responsibilities

Talking to Youth About Extended Foster Care (EFC)

- Conversations about the availability of Extended Foster Care benefits should be on-going with youth from the time that they begin high school. Immediately prior to the Status Review Hearing prior to the youth's 18th birthday, the case managing social worker (CM SW) shall have a conversation with the youth addressing the following:
 - The benefits of remaining under juvenile court jurisdiction as a Non-Minor Dependent (NMD).
 - The youth's right to have juvenile court jurisdiction terminated when he/she turn 18 years old.
 - The youth's right to request re-entry into foster care as a non-minor dependent if juvenile court jurisdiction is terminated.

NOTE: Use the following link to access the [Talking Points for Extended Foster Care](#) (Desk Guide 0322).

Transitional Independent Living Case Plan (TILCP)

- The TILCP is a continuation of the same case plan that existed before the NMD turned age 18, but there is no longer a focus on reunification, termination of parental rights for adoption, or the establishment of a guardianship for the youth.
- Development of the TILCP must be done in collaboration with foster youth and in consultation with the tribe for foster youth who meet the definition of Indian child as defined in W&IC section 224.1.
- Before foster youth turn 18, the CM SW must work with the youth to develop a case plan and a Transitional Independent Living Plan (TILP) that *include goals and services that will enable the foster youth to meet one of the participation conditions for EFC*. See [PPG 3-4-30, Eligibility Criteria for AB12 Extended Foster Care](#).
- The TILCP shall address the following:
 - Efforts to achieve permanence, including developing permanent connections with committed and caring adults;
 - Opportunities to have incremental responsibility to prepare to transition to independent living; **and**
 - Services that will assist the foster youth in meeting one of the participation criteria for eligibility. See [PPG 3-4-30, Eligibility Criteria for AB12 Extended Foster Care](#)

Note: For additional information on Court Reporting see the [AB12 Desk Guide- Youth Approaching Age of Majority \(Desk Guide 0321\)](#).

- During case planning foster youth should also be informed that if they leave foster care at age 18 in 2012 (and thereafter), they may re-enter foster care at any time before they reach the maximum age.

Transitional Independent Living Plan (TILP) for Foster Youth Approaching Age 17 years 5 Months

- For foster youth, including those who meet the definition of Indian Child, and those in NRLGs who do not express interest in remaining in foster care past age 18, the TILP shall reflect services that will help foster youth meet one of the participation criteria in case they decide to remain in EFC.
- The TILP shall continue to reflect the Independent Living Program (ILP) services that the youth is receiving and/or will receive in aftercare.

- The TILP shall outline goals and activities intended to assist the NMD in developing and maintaining permanent connections.

Note: For additional information on Court Reporting see the [AB12 Desk Guide- Youth Approaching Majority](#).

Court Reporting for Youth Approaching the Age of Majority

- In addition to the usual information for Status Review Reports, additional information must be provided in an Addendum at a Status Review Hearing that takes place for a youth who is between 17 years, 5 months and 18 years old, including the following:
 - The youth's plans to remain in care as an NMD and the conditions he/she will meet.
 - The efforts that are being made by the CM SW to help the youth meet a participation condition.
 - Information regarding providing youth with information on CWS case history, and any barriers that may exist in doing so.
 - Information regarding providing youth with assistance in obtaining vital documents, and any barriers that may exist in doing so.
 - For ICWA youth, plans to continue to be considered an Indian Child for the purposes of the ongoing application of ICWA as an NMD.
 - Whether the youth has applied for Social Security Benefits and status of application
 - Whether the youth has applied for Legal Permanent Residency and status of application.
 - The court report for youth approaching majority shall be written using the Addendum Report for Youth Approaching Majority. The report may be accessed in CWS/CMS.
 - The Attachment: *Additional Findings and Orders for Child Approaching Majority-Dependency*, may be accessed using the following link, [JV-460](#).

NOTE: For additional information regarding how to access the Addendum and Findings and Orders required for the court report, See the [AB 12 Desk Guide- Youth Approaching Age of Majority](#).