



Series: 300: Child and Family Services
Policy Name: **Extended Foster Care (EFC)**
Policy Number: 303
Origination Date: 11/30/10

Revision Date: 6/18/2019

Regulation: FL Statutes 409.1451; CFOP 170-17 chapter 3. Chapter 65C-41 F.A.C.; SB 1036; The Nancy C. Detert Common Sense and Compassion Independent Living Act.

Policy: Extended Foster Care (EFC) - Effective January 1, 2014, current and former foster youth will have the option to remain in foster care after their 18th birthday. Now, through Extended Foster Care, they have the flexibility they need to transition into adulthood at a pace that suits their individual circumstances.

Procedure:

1. Eligibility for EFC:

- a. Young adults who turned 18 while in the custody of Florida's Department of Children and Families AND who are currently:
 - 1) Attending high school or working on GED; or
 - 2) Enrolled in college or vocational education program; or
 - 3) Employed at least 80 hours per month; or
 - 4) Participating in a program designed to promote or eliminate barriers to employment; or
 - 5) Have a diagnosed and documented disability that would prevent them from participating in any of the activities above.
- b. Living arrangement and supervision shall be approved and provided by CCKids
- c. The Extended Foster Care Agreement will function as the application for any child in licensed care at the age of 17 years and 6 months, and for any child placed into licensed care after that date and prior to the 18th birthday.
- d. To reenter EFC, the young adult must complete a Voluntary Placement Agreement with the assistance of the RTS Specialist, and provide proof of participating in a qualifying activity, or request help from the RTS Specialist with choosing and enrolling in a qualifying activity

2. Participation by the young adult in case management and judicial proceedings.

In addition to engaging in one or more of the qualifying activities, the young adult must continue to reside in an approved supervised living arrangement and meet face to face in the home every month with an RTS Specialist. The young adult shall be encouraged to participate in ongoing transition and case planning, and judicial review and permanency hearings.

3. Case Management Services For Young Adults in Extended Foster Care

It is the intent of the Department to provide continuing care to all young adults who are placed in licensed care by the dependency court, and who remain placed in licensed care on their 18th



birthday, unless the young adult opts out of care, and to all qualifying young adults seeking reentry into care. The RTS Specialists shall work with each young adult as a client and a partner in continuing care, recognizing that each client is an adult voluntarily participating in this service. The RTS Specialists shall work with each young adult to assist the young adult in maintaining eligibility for this program by meeting his or her obligations as provided in the young adult's transition plan and case plan. Each young adult in extended foster care must have both a transition plan and a case plan developed. The RTS Specialist shall work with the young adult on the development and updates to each plan. The RTS Specialists are required to inform, encourage and empower the young adults who elect this program of their rights and responsibilities in an age and developmentally appropriate manner. All reasonable efforts must be made to encourage the young adult to elect the program, to meet the continuing eligibility requirements, and to successfully complete his or her transition plan and case plan.

4. Supervised Living Arrangements

- a. A comprehensive assessment shall be made to determine the appropriateness of the young adult's living arrangement, using the "Supervised Living Arrangement Assessment," CF-FSP 5431. This form is to be used for placement in Extended Foster Care (EFC). Prior to completing the assessment, the RTS Specialist must have reviewed the youth or young adult's case file and inspected the home environment proposed as the EFC living arrangement. The completed assessment shall be uploaded into the Florida Safe Families Network (FSFN), become an addendum to the young adult's transition plan, and supports the young adult's case plan.
- b. CCKids shall decide whether a living arrangement will be approved on a case-by-case basis, taking into consideration the needs and desires of the young adult and the level of supervision and support the young adult requires, and shall withhold approval for a living arrangement if the living arrangement jeopardizes the young adult's safety and well-being.
- c. CCKids is not responsible for any portion of the expenses of any other household member who is not receiving extended foster care services.
- d. Once a living arrangement has been approved, the RTS Specialist shall develop a plan in collaboration with the young adult and other applicable parties using the "Shared Living Plan" form, CF-FSP 5430, Sept 2018. The plan outlines the expectations, addressing the fundamental and routine needs, to enable a successful living arrangement. The completed plan becomes an addendum to the young adult's transition plan, and shall be uploaded in FSFN.

5. Discharge from EFC

A young adult shall be discharged from the extended foster care program when the young adult is no longer eligible to participate in the program. In the event the RTS Specialist determines that the young adult is ineligible, the RTS Specialist shall make a recommendation of program termination to the Department's designated regional operations representative for review and agreement. If the Department disagrees with program termination and is unable obtain consensus with CCKids, documentation should then be forwarded to the Department's regional representative in the Office of the General Counsel. If after consultation, there is continued



disagreement; documentation should be forwarded to the Department's headquarters representative in the Office of Child Welfare for continued review. The Department's headquarters representative will make the final determination in the conflict resolution. Upon reaching agreement with the adverse action, designated staff shall offer to assist the young adult in resuming eligibility requirements and provide to the young adult a "Notice of Discharge from Extended Foster Care," CF-FSP 5376. The "Due Process Rights" form, CF/PI 175-74, and a "Request for Fair Hearing," CF-FSP 5380 shall be attached the Notice of Discharge from Extended Foster Care. A young adult will no longer be eligible for EFC when:

- a. A young adult reaches 21 years of age or, in the case of a young adult with a disability, reaches 22 years of age: Achieves Permanence
- b. A young adult shall be discharged for failure to participate in one or more qualifying activities, unless that failure is based on a documented disability or other condition that limits the young adult's participation
- c. A young adult may be discharged for failure to reside in the approved living arrangement. The length of the young adult's absence from the approved living arrangement that supports the determination that the young adult is not residing in the approved living arrangement shall be determined during transition planning and documented in the "Shared Living Plan,"
- d. A young adult may be discharged for failure to actively participate in case management and supervision.
- e. A young adult may elect voluntary discharge when they indicate to a RTS specialist that he or she wishes to leave the program.

Approved: Carol Deloach
Carol Deloach, CEO

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