
INDEPENDENT LIVING STAFFING GUIDELINES

65C-28, F.A.C.; § 409.1451(4)(A), FLA. STAT. (2007)

Independent Living Staffings are for children age 13 and older who are in an out-of-home placements, that are held periodically to develop plans for meeting the identified needs of these children.

Age: Children age 13 and older who are in an out-of-home placements

Participants: 65C-28.009(4)(b), F.A.C.

- Services Worker
- The following shall be invited:
 - The Services Worker's supervisor
 - Child Welfare Legal Services (CWLS)
 - the child
 - the child's caregiver
 - the child's guardian ad litem (service worker shall invite) 65C-28.009(4)(b)5, F.A.C.
 - the child's attorney, if the child is so represented (service worker shall invite) 65C-28.009(4)(b)5, F.A.C.
 - The independent living service provider
 - any other individuals significant to and familiar with the child
 - family members likely to be involved with the child after the child leaves foster care.
 - The child shall be encouraged to invite any adults who are important in the child's life

Requirements

- 13-15 yearly:** The department shall conduct an annual staffing for each child who has reached 13 years of age but is not yet 15 years of age
- 15-18 every 6 months:** The department shall conduct a staffing at least once every 6 months for each child who has reached 15 years of age but is not yet 18 years of age
- The staffing shall be conducted in and with a language the youth can understand or, if needed, through a translator, and the process shall be child-centered. 65C-28.009(4)(b)3, F.A.C.
- The staffing shall be convenient to the child 65C-28.009(4)(b)4, F.A.C.
- Information from the pre-Independent Living life skills assessment and all Independent Living staffings shall be included in the written report submitted to the court for each judicial review. 65C-28.009(4)(b)6, F.A.C.
- Child must sign written report

Every Independent Living Staffing Shall, at a Minimum, Address the Following Topics: 65C-28.009(4)(a), F.A.C.

- The child's educational and work goals
 - child's progress and any obstacles the child is facing

- *See educational guidelines and worksheets*
- What life skills the child needs and child's progress toward developing already identified skills 65C-28.009(4)(a)2, F.A.C.
 - *See Independent Living Skills Log*
- The Subsidized Independent Living program, (*see SIL Guidelines and Worksheet*) including program requirements and benefits
- The Road to Independence Program
 - *See Road to Independence Program Guidelines and Worksheet*
- Program requirements and benefits, the tuition fee exemption, and the Bright Futures Program (*See Guideline and Worksheet*)
- Permanency arrangements including the child's wishes regarding adoption
- For children age 17, the child's plans for living arrangement after age 18
 - the life skills services that may need to be continued past age 18,
 - *See 17 Year Old IL Guidelines and Worksheet*
- Any other identified obstacles and needs the child has with regard to Independent Living.
- Written plan of age appropriate activities § 409.1451(3)(a)3, reviewed quarterly
 - *See Normalization Guidelines*
- Opportunity for a mentor § 409.1451 (3)(a)(4)
- Service worker shall assist in making lifelong connections between child and committed adult 65C-28.009(8), F.A.C.
- Direct access to management of allowance § 409.1451 (3)(a)(5)
- Opportunity to participate in life skills activities § 409.1451 (3)(a)
- Opportunity to participate in community service activities § 409.1451(3)(c)
- service worker shall continue efforts to locate placement with permanent family until the child reaches 18.
- Child's decision not to be adopted shall be reviewed twice a year 65C-28.009(8), F.A.C.
- Document must be explained to child before the child signs §409.1451
- Child must sign written report
- Attach written report to JR report

Special Considerations

- Disabled youth shall be provided with an equal opportunity to participate in Independent Living services.
- Information and guidance for pregnant or parenting teens 65C-31.005(11)