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# PRE-INDEPENDENT LIVING GUIDELINES (13-15)

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

*Pre-Independent Living skills are offered to foster youth between the ages of 13 but not yet 15 and include life skills training, educational field trips and conferences.*

**Age:** Age 13 but not yet 15 years of age; at 13 & 14 the department must conduct annual staffings.

**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 Years Old- In Care Before 13<sup>th</sup> Birthday

- 30 days prior to child's 13<sup>th</sup> birthday child shall be referred to IL services
- Pre-Independent Living Assessment within 30 days after 13<sup>th</sup> birthday
- Pre-Independent Living Assessment shall include the following:*
  - Pre-independent living assessment tool
  - Review of file
  - Review of other assessments & evaluations
    - Educational, psychological, psychiatric evaluations
  - Personal interviews and observations
- Results filed with court and served on all parties

### 13 Years Old – In Care After 13<sup>th</sup> Birthday

- Referred for IL services within 30 days after the court enters an order placing the child in the custody of the department
- Pre-Independent Living Assessment within 60 days after the court enters an order placing the child in the custody of the department
- Pre-Independent Living Assessment shall include the following 65C-28.009(5)(a)1 F.A.C.

- Pre-independent living assessment tool
- Review of file
  - Review of other assessments & evaluations: educational, psychological, and psychiatric
- Personal interviews and observations
- Results filed with court and served on all parties

#### 14 Year Old Annual Staffing after Child's 14<sup>th</sup> Birthday

- Pre-Independent Living Assessment may be assessment from 13 years old
- The department shall conduct an annual staffing
  - to ensure that the pre independent living training and services to be provided as determined by the pre independent living assessment are being received
    - life skills, educational field trips, conferences
- Provide Road to Independence Program Information (14+)
- Provide information about Educational grants and waivers (14+)
  - requirements for eligibility; other grants, scholarships, and waivers that are available and should be sought by the child with assistance from the department, including, but not limited to, the Bright Futures Scholarship Program, on application deadlines; and on grade requirements for such programs.
- Review Post-Secondary Goal Setting (*See Educational Guidelines and Worksheet*)
  - Based on abilities and interests of child
  - Accommodate special education needs
  - Identify: core courses, elective courses, GPA, other needed information, mentor willing to assist

#### 13 & 14 Annual Staffing Additional Requirements 65C-28.009(5)(a) F.A.C.

- Service worker shall discuss results of assessment with child and caregiver
- Use results to determine training and services needed
- Use results to determine strengths and needs
- Service worker shall ensure child's identified needs are met
  - Life Skills can be taught through
    - Out-of home caregivers
    - Group care staff
    - Contracted services
    - Referrals to community providers
    - One-on-one coaching
    - Group learning sessions
    - Public school curriculum
- For every skill the service worker must document in the file who will help develop the skill and the timeline
- It is the service workers responsibility to ensure the child receives the training. 65C-28.009(6)(e) F.A.C.
- Discuss
  - Educational options
  - High-school participation
  - College or vocational school entrance requirements
  - Rewards and consequences of available options
  - Setting realistic goals

- Potential limitations
- Educate child and caregiver about available independent living services
- Referral for life skills shall be submitted within 30 days of child's 15<sup>th</sup> birthday
- Must meet normalization requirements of § 409.1451(3)(a), and 65C – 30.007(10) F.A.C.  
*See Normalcy Guidelines*

### **Special Considerations**

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