



State of Florida
Department of Children and Families

Charlie Crist
Governor

George H. Sheldon
Secretary

DATE: April 20, 2009
TO: Regional Directors
FROM: George H. Sheldon, Secretary
SUBJECT: Services to Young Adults Formerly in Foster Care

Purpose: This memo provides clarification about services to young adults formerly in foster care. It has come to my attention that agencies may be using dated materials to determine eligibility. The current policy governing these services is Section 409.1451(5), F.S., and Florida Administrative Code 65C-31.

Action Required: Please disseminate this memo to Circuit Administrators and Community-Based Care (CBC) Chief Executive Officers immediately. Ensure that staff are using the most recent Florida Statutes and F.A.C. in providing services to young people and, in particular, that the items below are highlighted for review and proper implementation.

Reinstatement of Road to Independence {s.409.1451(5)(b)6.k., F. S., and F.A.C. 65C-31.004(3)}

- There is no automatic waiting period of one year.

Independent Living Benefits Due Process Notification (F.A.C. 65C-31.009)

- This is mandated for any denial, termination, or reduction of assistance.

Prohibition of caps on Transitional Support Services and/or Aftercare funding

- The dollar amount of these services may not be capped based on an arbitrary maximum.

Next Steps: The Office of Family Safety in conjunction with community-based care lead agency quality assurance staff will be conducting a special review of young adult services in May 2009. This review will provide baseline data and information needed to conduct technical assistance and training. The goal is to ensure that existing law and policy are fully implemented. A date for a statewide technical assistance meeting on independent living services will be shared in the next several weeks. Our plan is for the meeting to be centrally located and the Office of Family Safety will reimburse travel expenses for specified Community-Based Care staff.

Contact Information: If you have questions or concerns, please email [Julie Mayo@dcf.state.fl.us](mailto:Julie_Mayo@dcf.state.fl.us) or call her at 850-922-0375.

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