



State of Florida
Department of Children and Families

Charlie Crist
Governor

George H. Sheldon
Secretary

DATE: October 29, 2010

TO: Regional Directors

THROUGH: • Pete Digre, Assistant Secretary for Operations *Member to*
Be for David L. Fairbanks, Assistant Secretary for Programs

FROM: Alan Abramowitz, State Director, Office of Family Safety *[Signature]*

SUBJECT: Section 1009.25(2)(c), F.S. – Tuition and Fee Exemptions for Young Adults in or Formerly in Foster Care
ACTION REQUESTED: Please disseminate for immediate use by staff
DATE DUE: As soon as possible

PURPOSE: To highlight the change in age requirement for the tuition fee exemption. During the 2010 Session, the Legislature changed the age requirement to 28 for the tuition fee exemption for all eligible youth in and young adults formerly in foster care. To ensure that the youth and young adults that we serve are aware of this change and hopefully able to take advantage of this fee exemption, we have updated the Tuition and Fee Exemption for Students in Foster Care/Independent Living/Adoption form (Form CF-FSP 5220) and included this new change in age.

BACKGROUND: Section 1009.25(2)(c), F.S., establishes the eligibility criteria for a youth in or young adult formerly in foster care to be exempt from paying tuition and fees at a public postsecondary career program, public Florida College System Institution (including public community college), or public state university, pursuant to s. 1009.25(2)(c), F.S. The 2010 Legislature amended this section to establish the same exemption expiration date for all eligible youth in and young adults formerly in foster care. The exemption is now valid until a young adult reaches the age of 28.

The Department made changes to Form CF-FSP 5220 to reflect the legislative changes effective July 1. Please note the Legislature made no changes to the type of degree for which a young person may use this exemption. The Florida Board of Governors' regulation 7.008 stipulates this exemption is valid for an undergraduate degree or up to 120 hours.

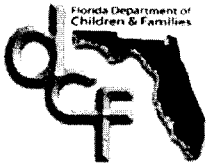
ACTION REQUESTED: Please disseminate this form for immediate use to all staff responsible for verifying that a youth or young adult meets the eligibility criteria to be exempt from paying tuition and fees at a public postsecondary career program, public

1317 Winewood Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0700

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Florida College System Institution (including public community college), or public state university, pursuant to s. 1009.25(2)(c), F.S.

CONTACT INFORMATION: If you have any questions, please contact Marci Kirkland at (850) 487-2464 or marci_kirkland@dcf.state.fl.us.



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Date: _____

To: Florida Public State University, Public Florida College System Institution, or
Public Postsecondary Career and Technical Program

From: _____, Department of Children and Families
or Community Based Care Lead Agency

Title: _____

Subject: Tuition and Fee Exemption for Students Receiving or Formerly Receiving Services from the
Department of Children and Families

Please accept this letter certifying that _____ (name),
whose date of birth is _____, meets one of the following criteria necessary to obtain
exemption from paying tuition and fees at a Florida public state university, public Florida College System
institution or public postsecondary career and technical program, pursuant to the "Florida K-20 Education
Code," Section 1009.25(2)(c), Florida Statutes (check one):

- He or she is or was at the time he or she reached age 18 in the custody of the Department of
Children and Families;
He or she was adopted from the Department of Children and Families after May 5, 1997;
He or she is or was at the time of reaching age 18 in the custody of a relative under s. 39.5085, F.S.;
or,
He or she was placed in a guardianship by the court after reaching age 16 and spending at least 6
months in the custody of the Department of Children and Families.

The tuition and fee exemption CANNOT be used at an out-of-state educational institution or in-state private
university, private community college or private postsecondary career and technical program. Please contact
the financial aid office at the school to determine whether alternative tuition and fee exemptions or
scholarships are available through the school.

Effective July 1, 2010¹, this exemption remains valid until the young person reaches the age 28, which
is _____.

Please contact _____, Florida Department of Children and Families
or Community Based Care Agency at _____ for additional information.

School Official, if applicable

School Official, if applicable

¹ Please note: If you are receiving this form when leaving the custody of DCF, but are not ready to use the exemption at this time,
you will need to read Section 1009.25(2)(c), F.S., to ensure that the statute still provides the tuition and fee exemption for former
foster youth in the category in which you qualify. Florida laws may change from year to year.