



State of Florida
Department of Children and Families

Rick Scott
Governor

Mike Carroll
Secretary

INFORMATIONAL MEMO

DATE: September 25, 2015

TO: Regional Managing Directors, Community-Based Care CEOs

THROUGH: ~~David L. Fairbanks, Deputy Secretary~~
~~Vicki Abrams, Assistant Secretary for Operations~~

FROM: Janice Thomas, Assistant Secretary for Child Welfare
Traci Leavine, Director of Child Welfare Practice *JTB for Traci Leavine*

SUBJECT: Credit Checks for Youth in Out of Home Care: Updated Requirements

PURPOSE: On September 29, 2014, Public Law 113-183, The Preventing Sex Trafficking Strengthening Families Act, was signed into law and amended the Social Security Act regarding the requirements to obtain credit checks for children in foster care. The requirements outlined below are effective September 29, 2015.

BACKGROUND: Section 112 of Public Law 113-183 amended Title IV-E of the Social Security Act to expand the age of children for whom credit checks are required - now requiring that every child 14 years of age and older who is in the foster care system receive a free copy of their consumer credit history on an annual basis.

ACTION: The requirements shall be implemented by the Community Based Care Lead Agency no later than September 29, 2015.

- The Community Based Care Lead Agency will amend their process for requesting, documenting and obtaining a copy of a credit report from each of the three main Reporting Agencies (Transunion, Equifax and Experian) to include youth ages 14 and older.
- The Community Based Care Lead Agency must obtain a copy of the credit report, if one exists, from each of the three main Credit Reporting Agencies (Transunion, Equifax, and Experian) annually.
- The Community Based Care Lead Agency shall provide a copy of results to the youth.
- The Community Based Care Lead Agency must provide assistance to youth in regards to interpreting and managing the credit result information until discharged from care.

CONTACT INFORMATION: If you have any questions, please contact Kirk Brown, Office of Child Welfare, (850) 717-4326 or via e-mail at kirk.brown@myflfamilies.com.

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Mission: Protect the Vulnerable, Promote Strong and Economically Self-Sufficient Families, and Advance Personal and Family Recovery and Resiliency