



CDSS

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February 8, 2010

ALL COUNTY LETTER (ACL) NO. 09-87

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL CHIEF PROBATION OFFICERS
ALL INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAM (ILP) MANAGERS

SUBJECT: NEW FEDERAL REQUIREMENT: 90-DAY TRANSITION PLAN FOR
FOSTER YOUTH PRIOR TO AGING-OUT OF FOSTER CARE

REFERENCE: The ACL NO. 08-31; PUBLIC LAW (P.L.) 110-351; MANUAL OF POLICIES
AND PROCEDURES SECTION (MPP) 31-236 (6); WELFARE
AND INSTITUTIONS CODE SECTION 16501.1(f) (16) (B)

REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL

- State Law Change
- Federal Law or Regulation Change
- Court Order
- Clarification Requested by One or More Counties
- Initiated by CDSS

The purpose of this ACL is to notify counties of the new federal mandate that requires a Transition Plan for foster youth to be developed within the 90-day period prior to youth aging-out of foster care. The P.L. 110-351, The Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act, requires that a foster youth have a Transition Plan that specifically covers the following areas: housing, education, health insurance, mentors/continuing support services and workforce support/employment services. The purpose of the Transition Plan is to provide youth and those supporting them with a concrete individualized plan to follow that assists the youth in preparing for a successful transition to adulthood.

As mandated by federal law, effective January 1, 2010, a 90-day Transition Plan must be completed for foster youth within the 90-day period prior to the youth emancipating or aging out of foster care. This plan may be completed during the same time that the JV 365 is being completed. The 90-day plan is to be completed for both child welfare and probation supervised foster youth.

The 90-day Transition Plan (see Attachment A) has been created in collaboration with the County Welfare Directors Association (CWDA), CWDA ILP Subcommittee and current and former foster youth participating in the California Breakthrough Series on ILP transformation. The 90-day Transition Plan form contains a grid that covers the areas identified in P.L. 110-351 and provides a place to document the steps that the youth and/or a designated adult must complete to achieve the plan. The plan is to be developed at the direction of the youth and should be as detailed as the youth decides. The youth should be encouraged to include in this process their caregiver, a family member, mentor or other adult(s) important to the youth. Best practice includes consideration of other case plans (e.g. Wraparound, education, mental health

or regional centers) in the development of the 90-day Transition Plan. For those youth who are unable to have meaningful participation in the development of the 90-day Transition Plan, the social worker/probation officer will develop the plan in collaboration with agencies, service providers and/or significant individuals in the youth's life. Once the plan is completed, the document is signed by all parties and copies are provided to the youth and other individuals involved in developing the plan.

For runaway youth, the social worker or probation officer should develop a plan that includes sending the important documents such as birth certificate, social security card, Medi-Cal card, proof of dependency, etc. to the county of jurisdiction's ILP. In addition, the plan could include notifying significant adults in the youth's life with the contact information for ILP if, in the future, they come in contact with the youth.

NOTE: The 90-day Transition Plan is to be completed in addition to the Transitional Independent Living Plan (TILP). These are two separate requirements. The 90-day Transition Plan is a federal law and the TILP is California State law. The TILP still must be completed initially when youth are between the age of 15.5 and 16 and updated every six months, based on a completed assessment per MPP section 31-236 (6). However, an assessment is not required to be completed when developing the 90-day Transition Plan. Once the 90-day Transition Plan is completed, no additional TILP updates are required unless the court continues dependency beyond the 90-day period and a TILP update is due.

In anticipation of the new federal law, additional funds have been allocated in the Fiscal Year 2009-10 Child Welfare Services Allocation for social workers' time to complete the new mandate of the 90-day Transition Plan. Although the TILP is not currently in the Child Welfare Services/Case Management System (CWS/CMS), the state is working on including both the TILP and 90-day Transition Plan in a future CWS/CMS update release.

Please e-mail questions to ILPPolicy@dss.ca.gov or call (916) 654-1426.

Sincerely,

Original Document Signed By:

GREGORY E. ROSE
Deputy Director
Children and Family Services Division

Attachments

Attachment A**90-day Transition Plan**

This form is for you to develop a plan when you are within 90 days of leaving foster care. This plan will focus on activities that you will complete during this time. This is as an agreement between you and those supporting you to work toward completing your transition plan. This should be developed with you in a transition conference setting, or group meeting, with those you want involved and who are helping you to successfully transition out of foster care.

Instructions To Youth: During the 90 day period before you leave foster care, you will make a transition plan that shows where you plan to live, receive additional support, work and/or go to school after you leave care and help keep family connections. The purpose of this plan is to help you take steps to successfully live on your own.

Instructions to Caregiver/other adults: If asked by the youth, you are also agreeing to assist the youth in the development of a 90 day transition plan that will help him/her to successfully transition out of foster care.

Instructions to Social Worker/Probation Officer: During the 90 day period prior to the youth exiting foster care, you are agreeing to assist the youth in developing a transition plan that will address his/her needs for housing, employment, education, mentors, continuing support services and health insurance.

Instructions for Family, Service Providers, CASA and others connected to and supporting the youth: If asked by the youth, you are also agreeing to assist the youth in the development of a 90 day transition plan that will help him/her to successfully transition out of foster care.

During the 90 day period prior to aging out of care:

This plan is to be completed within the 90 day period before you turn 18, 19, or graduate from high school, whichever event will coincide with his/her exit from foster care. If you emancipate from care before age 18, this plan should be completed within 90 days before your target emancipation date.

The sections on the next page must be completed to include your plan for education, employment, housing, mentoring, family connections, continuing support services and health insurance. The plan must be personal to you and as detailed as you can get. The plan must contain specific actions that you and others will take to help you prepare for leaving care.

*Note: The last page of this form has an example grid that can give you ideas to help make your planning very concrete.

Youth: _____ DOB: _____ Age: _____ Ethnicity: _____

Case Worker Name: _____ Case Worker phone: _____

90-day Transition Plan Additional boxes can be inserted if needed		
<u>Education Plan:</u>	To prepare, I or a supporting adult (name) will:	Recommended documents the youth will need
<u>Employment Plan:</u>	To prepare, I or a supporting adult (name) will:	Recommended documents the youth will need
<u>Housing Plan:</u>	To prepare, I or a supporting adult (name) will:	Recommended documents the youth will need
<u>Mentoring & Continuing Support Services (i.e mental health, health services) Plan:</u>	To prepare, I or a supporting adult (name) will:	Recommended documents the youth will need
<u>Family and Other Permanent Connections:</u>	I plan to stay connected to family and other adults by:	Recommended documents the youth will need
<u>Health Insurance Plan</u>	If not eligible for extended Medi-Cal, I plan to get health insurance through:	Agency, employer or other person providing health insurance:

Acknowledgements:

I know that I must sign verification paperwork to continue my Medi-Cal health insurance benefits when I exit from foster care and again each year to receive Medi-Cal until my 21st birthday or until I have secured a different type of health insurance. I am also aware that when I move I must resubmit a verification form with my new address. _____ youth’s initials

I know that 30 days prior to leaving foster care, I am eligible to apply for food stamps. _____ youth’s initials

I agree to meet with my caregiver and social worker/probation officer as needed to ensure sufficient progress towards my goals.

Target date for exiting foster care _____

By signing below, this means we will all work to complete the steps necessary to help the youth complete his/her transition plan.

Youth’s signature

Date

Caregiver’s signature

Date

Social Worker/Probation Officer signature

Date

Family Member signature

Date

Service Providers/Therapist signature

Date

CASA/Other Youth Advocates signature

Date

Legislative & Regulatory References:

- Public Law 110-351, which states that a Transition Plan must be developed at the direction of the youth during the 90 day period prior to the youth aging out. The plan must contain specific options on housing, health insurance, education, local opportunities for mentors/continuing support services and workforce support/employment services.

90-day Transition Plan Examples

<p>Education Goals:</p> <p>I plan to attend....</p>	<p>TimeLine</p> <p>FAFSA due: <u>01/01/2009</u> School application <u>01/15/2009</u> Scholarship app: <u>02/01/2009</u> Housing app: <u>03/01/2009</u></p> <p>(Due dates of all document and application deadlines)</p>	<p>Recommended documents the youth will need</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Copy of School application ○ Copy of FAFSA application ○ Copy of Chafee grant application ○ Copy of Guardian Scholar application ○ Copy of High School transcripts
<p>Employment Plan:</p> <p>I plan to get/have a job at....</p> <p>1. 2. 3. 4.</p>	<p>I have Prepared by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Completing ILP Proficiency Certificate checklist ○ Completing job applications at:_____ ○ Having Social Security card available ○ Identifying people to provide reference 	<p>Recommended documents the youth will need</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Copy of resume ○ Copy of Permanent Residency card (if applicable) ○ List of people willing to provide reference
<p>Housing Plan:</p> <p>I plan to live with/in...</p>	<p>I have prepared by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Touring the facilities ○ Confirming deposit and move-in arrangements ○ Checking resources provided by housing facility 	<p>Recommended documents the youth will need</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Copy of housing application ○ Housing deposit verification ○ Completed cost of living budget
<p>Family Connections:</p> <p>I feel closely connected to.....</p>	<p>I plan to stay connected to family and other adults by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Having phone and in-person contact with..... ○ Making a plan to stay withduring college dorm breaks ○ Having email addresses for... 	<p>Recommended documents the youth will need</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Contact list for family members