



# TALKING WITH EMERGING ADULTS

*A conversation guide for caregivers, social workers, probation officers, attorneys and CASAs*





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Every year, 5,000 foster youth across California “age out” of the system. Too often, many have little or no support as they learn to become adults. However, in California, the passage of the California Fostering Connections to Success Act (AB12 and AB212) has ensured the continuity of care through the development of Extended Foster Care (EFC) to eligible young adults until age 20. This important legislation has created a safety net for young adults and a supportive environment to develop and acquire independent living skills needed to not only survive, but thrive in today’s world. The new law will allow eligible foster youth to stay in the system longer, receive additional supports in supervised settings while they work, finish school or other training to enable them to successfully transition to adulthood.

A series of videos has been created to provide foster youth and caring adults with introductory information about this new law in order to ensure all eligible youth know about the available choices that will impact their future. To maximize the potential for the After 18 Videos to be a catalyst for change, a series of step by step conversation guides has been developed to facilitate a dialogue between youth and a caring adult such as a caregiver, social worker, probation officer, attorney or CASA. These conversations inform youth about the benefits of the new law and encourage them to consider remaining in Extended Foster Care. The guide offers a series of questions that can help facilitate a productive conversation as well as provide necessary information about the California Fostering Connections for Success Act.

## SETTING THE STAGE

The videos are each approximately 3- 4 minutes in length. Allow for time to consider the choices and to think about how this could impact the youth’s future. View the videos in a quiet location, where it is comfortable to discuss and think about what opportunities there are under the law. You will want to ensure you have 20-30 minutes for this reflection time after viewing the videos.



## Overview Video

*The Overview Video covers the basics of AB12 and introduces youth to the basic facts of Extended Foster Care.*

### GUIDING QUESTIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS ORGANIZED BY TOPIC

#### Creation of Law

- What are the struggles faced by foster youth turning eighteen? How do you think this law will help them?

#### Turning 18

- What are his or her plans when they graduate and leave care?
- What will the young adult in your care do? Work? Take classes? School/trade program?

#### Meaning of Extended Foster Care

- Do you think it will be helpful to support foster youth who are turning 18 or 19?
- Do you value continued support for foster youth turning 18 or 19?

#### Youth Responsibilities

- What contributions can you make to support a young adult in meeting his or her responsibilities?

#### AB12 Choices and Options

- How do you think AB12 gives young adults choices to exercise their independence?
- What are his or her living options? Have you explored what living options might be the best fit for the young adult? Where would they want to live?
- Will remaining in Extended Foster Care help prepare the young adult for the future and support him/her in achieving their goals? Will Extended Foster Care support a young adult in meeting his or her goals?

#### Court Participation

- How will you support the young adult in participating in the court process?

#### Other Questions

There are 3 more videos that may answer other questions – Eligibility, Placement and Probation. Move on to those videos after this conversation. The Probation video is optional.



## Eligibility Video

*The Eligibility video covers the eligibility criteria of AB12.*

### **GUIDING QUESTIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS ORGANIZED BY TOPIC**

#### **Impact of New Law for Foster Youth**

- How do you think Extended Foster Care will help young adults in foster care?

#### **Eligibility for Foster Youth to Obtain Support**

- Do you think the young adult in your care could meet one of these eligibility criteria with your assistance and support?

#### **Transitional Independent Living Plan (TILP)**

- How will you help support a young adult to reach the goals in his or her TILP?

#### **Overcoming Challenges**

- What can you do to assist the young adult in overcoming challenges?
- Does the young adult have barriers that would prevent them from being eligible?

#### **Leaving and Returning to EFC**

- How would you support a young adult returning to foster care?
- How would you help?

#### **Developing a Plan with Responsible Adults**

- How will you support the young adult, while encouraging independence and decision-making?

#### **Court Participation**

- How will you support the young adult in participating in the court process?

#### **Other Questions**

There are 3 more videos that may answer other questions – Overview, Placement and Probation. Make sure to view those videos. The Probation Video is optional.

## Placement Video

*The Placement Video covers housing options for youth in Extended Foster Care.*

### GUIDING QUESTIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS ORGANIZED BY TOPIC

#### Living Options

- What are the new living options?
- How would you support any of these living options for the young adult in your care?
- Is your youth comfortable where they are now?
- Would they be interested in living with someone else?

#### Supervised Independent Living Placement Readiness (SILP) Assessment and Approval

- Do you feel the young adult in your care is ready for a SILP?
- What would he or she need to do to become ready?
- If you don't think they are ready, how could you help him or her prepare for a SILP?
- Does the young adult know how to budget money?

#### SILP Safety

- What can you do to help ensure a SILP is safe and ready for a youth to move into?

#### Finding a Place to Live

- What can you do to support a young adult in finding a place to live?

#### Court Participation

- How will you support the young adult in participating in the court process?

#### Other Questions

There are 3 more videos that may answer other questions – Overview, Eligibility and Probation. Make sure to view those videos. The Probation Video is optional.



## Probation Video

*The Probation Video covers the options available for foster youth in Probation.*

### GUIDING QUESTIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS ORGANIZED BY TOPIC

#### Probation Youth Eligibility and Benefits

- What are the conditions that make a Probation youth eligible?
- How could a foster youth on Probation benefit from extended care?
- Why would a foster youth on Probation want to be in Extended Foster Care?

#### Living Options

- What are the options available for Probation youth?

#### Youth Responsibilities

- What are you able to do to support a young adult in meeting his or her responsibilities?

#### Re-entry

- How will you be supportive of a young adult re-entering foster care? What would you do to support him or her?

#### Court Participation

- How will you support the young adult in participating in the court process?

#### Other Questions

There are three additional videos have information that is applicable to youth on Probation. Please make sure to also view the Overview, Eligibility and Placement videos.