



TALKING WITH CARING ADULTS

A Conversation Guide for Foster Youth





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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 STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE FOR CONVERSATIONS WITH CARING ADULTS ABOUT YOUR FUTURE AND YOUR CHOICES

Once you have watched the videos you may want to learn more about how to take advantage of this new opportunity. After 18 has developed a series of step by step conversation guides with questions that you might use when talking with a caring adult such as a caregiver, social worker, probation officer or attorney. These guides offer helpful questions that promote a conversation that will help you understand your options. These conversations are meant to provide you with more information about the benefits of the new law and help you understand how this can be useful to you in reaching your goals. Of course you may have many questions of your own. This is meant to help you get started in talking to your social worker, probation officer, attorney or CASA and learning more about your choices.



Overview Video

The Overview Video covers the basics of the new law and provides an introduction to the basic facts of Extended Foster Care.

QUESTIONS FOR CARING ADULTS TO HELP YOU UNDERSTAND YOUR OPTIONS:

Turning 18

- Can you help me develop a plan once I turn 18?
- Can you help me get enrolled in school or find a job or place to live?

Meaning of Extended Foster Care

- Exactly what kind of support is available to me after 18 or 19?

Your Responsibilities

- What does it mean to meet regularly with my social worker or probation officer? What will we be meeting for?
- What if I am not in the same area as my social worker or the court?
- How will I develop a Transitional Independent Living Plan (TILP)?
- What if I change my mind or I can't or don't follow the plan? What happens then?
- What is a Mutual Agreement?

AB12 Choices and Options

- What are the choices for living arrangements?
- What if I don't think I need help? Do I have to have it?
- What if I decide I don't want the help anymore?

Court Participation

- How often do I have to go to court?
- What if I am not in the same area as the court?

Other Questions

There are 3 more videos that may answer additional questions: Eligibility, Placement and Probation. Move to those videos after this conversation. The Probation Video is optional.



Eligibility Video

The Eligibility Video covers the eligibility criteria of AB12.

QUESTIONS FOR CARING ADULTS TO HELP YOU UNDERSTAND YOUR OPTIONS:

Impact of New Law for Foster Youth

- Can you help me understand exactly how Extended Foster care could help me?

Eligibility for Foster Youth to Obtain Support

- Can we discuss all the ways I could be eligible?
- Can you help me understand which one might be best for me?
- What if I have some challenges and can't work or go to school – but want to?

Transitional Independent Living Plan (TILP)

- What is included in the TILP?
- What does it mean to work on my plan?
- What support would I get to help me do my plan?

Overcoming Challenges?

- What if I encounter problems I didn't expect like losing my job or needing to drop a class?
- Who would help me?
- How would that affect my eligibility?

Leaving and Returning to Extended Foster Care (EFC)?

- What if I decide I want to leave? How would I be able to re-enter?
- What is included in the re-entry agreement?

Developing a Plan with Responsible Adults

- In what way would I work with my social worker or probation officer?
- Will people help me develop a plan that will address my specific needs?

Court Participation

- How often do I have to go to court?
- What if I am not in the same area as the court?

Other Questions

There are 3 more videos that may answer additional questions: Overview, Placement and Probation. Move to those videos after this conversation. The Probation video is optional.



Placement Video

The Placement Video covers your housing options in Extended Foster Care.

QUESTIONS FOR CARING ADULTS TO HELP YOU UNDERSTAND YOUR OPTIONS:

Living Options

- What are my options again?
- What if none of these really appeal to me?

Supervised Independent Living Placement Readiness (SILP) Assessment and Approval

- What do I need to do be ready to live in a SILP?
- What if I want to stay where I am now?
- What if I want to live with my friends?
- How will support be provided?
- How do I learn about managing my money?

SILP Safety

- What needs to be checked out in order for me to live in a SILP?
- What kind of support is available to me to make sure my place is safe?

Finding a Place to Live

- Who will help me find a place to live?
- What needs to be in place so that I would be ready to live in a SILP?

Court Participation

- How often do I have to go to court?
- What if I am not in the same area as the court?

Other Questions

There are 3 more videos that may answer additional questions: Overview, Eligibility and Probation. Move to those videos after this conversation. The Probation Video is optional.



Probation Video

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

QUESTIONS FOR CARING ADULTS TO HELP YOU UNDERSTAND YOUR OPTIONS:

Probation Youth Eligibility and Benefits

- What are the conditions that would make me eligible?
- Will I still be on probation in Extended Foster Care?

Your Responsibilities

- What does it mean to meet regularly with my social worker or probation officer? What will we be meeting for?
- What if I am not in the same area as my probation officer or the court?
- What if I want to stay in Extended Foster Care, but do not want to be supervised by my probation officer?
- How will I develop a Transitional Independent Living Plan (TILP)?
- What is a Mutual Agreement?
- What if I change my mind or I can't or don't follow the plan? What happens then?

Living Options

- What are my living options again?
- What if none of these really appeal to me?

Leaving and Returning to EFC?

- What if I decide I want to leave? How would I be able to re-enter?
- What is included in the re-entry agreement?

Court Participation

- How often do I have to go to court?
- What if I am not in the same area as the court?

Other Questions

There are 3 more videos that have information that is relevant to Probation youth. Please be sure to also view the Overview, Eligibility, and Placement videos.