

Children's Bureau Update: May 2017

PRESENTED TO THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE
ASSOCIATION OF ADMINISTRATORS OF THE
INTERSTATE COMPACT ON THE PLACEMENT OF
CHILDREN

MAY 22, 2017

Extending Title IV-E Up to Age 21

ACYF-CB-PI-10-11 provides that:

- If the agency chooses to expand the definition of child, the selected age **must** apply to the title IV-E foster care; adoption assistance; and, if applicable, guardianship assistance programs.
- CB encourages a title IV-E agency to expand the definition of child up to age 21.
 - If the agency wishes to extend assistance over age 18, but only up to age 19 or 20, the agency must submit a description as to why the agency is choosing a lower age.

Educational and Employment Conditions for Youth 18+

ACYF-CB-PI-10-11, pages 3-4, explains that:

- A title IV-E agency may design its child welfare programs to provide extended care to youth in any of the five educational or employment circumstances.
- In designing its program, the agency is given considerable flexibility in relation to these conditions, such as:
 - Including only one, some or all conditions;
 - Determining how the agency will verify or obtain assurances that the youth meets the conditions, and the frequency of the verifications.

Removal from Home Criteria and Placement and Care for Youth 18+ in Foster Care

ACYF-CB-PI-10-11, pages 6-7, explains that:

- Youth 18+ in foster care must meet the title IV-E removal criteria.
 - There are several ways a youth can meet these criteria, depending on whether a youth is continuing in foster care after turning 18 or reentering foster care after turning 18.
 - The agency must obtain placement and care responsibility of youth over age 18 receiving title IV-E foster care maintenance payments through a VPA, written authorization from the youth or court order.

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Title IV-E Protections and Case Review Requirements for Youth 18+

ACYF-CB-PI-10-11, pages 10-11, explains that:

- All title IV-E protections and case review requirements apply to youth over age 18, including:
 - Periodic reviews
 - Permanency hearings and TPR requirements
 - Monthly caseworker visits, and
 - A judicial determination that the agency made reasonable efforts to finalize a permanency plan every 12 months for youth over age 18 receiving title IV-E foster care who were removed via court order.
- However, an agency has flexibility in how to apply these requirements, such as:
 - Focusing agency and caseworker permanency efforts on the goal of independent living and the youth's progress in meeting this goal.
 - Conducting hearings/ visits and delivering services in an age-appropriate manner.

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Children's Bureau Updates

- Children's Bureau has released questions and answers on the Comprehensive Child Welfare Information System (CCWIS), which are available in the Child Welfare Policy Manual, section 6, at: https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cwpm/programs/cb/laws_policies/laws/cwpm/policy.jsp?idFlag=6
 - A PowerPoint on the CCWIS is available at: https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/ccwis_overview_presentation.pdf
- New Questions and Answers on training and private agencies, are available in the Child Welfare Policy Manual, section 8.1H, QA #21 and #22 at: https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cwpm/programs/cb/laws_policies/laws/cwpm/policy_dsp?citID=116

Children's Bureau Updates

- The final rule on the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) was published in the Federal Register on December 14, 2016 (81 FR 90524)
- A variety of AFCARS-related resources are available on the Children's Bureau's webpage in the section called, "Final Rule: Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System" at: <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/laws-policies/whats-new>
- HHS, in concert with Department of Justice, has released joint guidance on the rights of parents and prospective parents with disabilities, which is available at: https://www.ada.gov/doj_hhs_ta/child_welfare_ta.html

Children's Bureau Updates

- HHS, in concert with Department of Justice, has released joint guidance on child welfare and Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which is available at: <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/departments-justice-and-health-and-human-services-issue-joint-guidance-child-welfare-systems>
- Children's Bureau issued a question and answer about how to determine a child's AFDC eligibility, which is available in the Child Welfare Policy Manual at sec. 8.4A, QA#21: https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cwpm/programs/cb/laws_policies/laws/cwpm/policy_dsp.jsp?citID=8
