

WHAT CAREGIVERS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT AB 12 FOR PROBATION INVOLVED YOUTH: AN OVERVIEW

February 12, 2013

Noon – 1:00 P.M.

Webinar



Caregiver Webinar Series:
AB 12 & Probation Supervised Foster Youth

WHAT IS AB 12?

California's Fostering Connections to Success Act

- ❖ Helps foster youth transition to adulthood and independence by allowing youth to continue to receive support until age 21
- ❖ Extends these benefits to probation supervised foster youth
- ❖ Establishes new supervised independent living options for foster youth 18 & over
- ❖ Allows youth to exit and re-enter foster care
- ❖ Permits eligible probation supervised foster youth who have met rehabilitative goals to get off probation & continue to receive extended benefits

WHY *FOSTERING CONNECTIONS* IS IMPORTANT FOR PROBATION YOUTH:

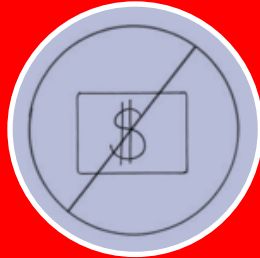
- Probation Involved Youth Most Vulnerable Of Transition Age Foster Youth Population
- AB 12 Provides Extended Supports Needed For Transition Age Foster Youth
- Probation Supervised “Foster Care Youth” Eligible



WHAT CHALLENGES DO TRANSITION AGE YOUTH CURRENTLY FACE?



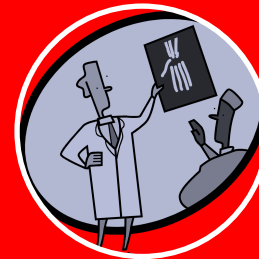
Inadequate housing



Lack of financial resources



Frequent changes in home and school leave youth unprepared



Access to health care



Lack of information about higher education, job training, financial aid, support resources etc.



AB 12 WILL ADDRESS MANY OF THESE ISSUES BY PROVIDING....



Housing
through an
approved
placement



Benefits until
age 21



Monthly visits
with probation
officer or social
worker and
assistance with
transition to
independence



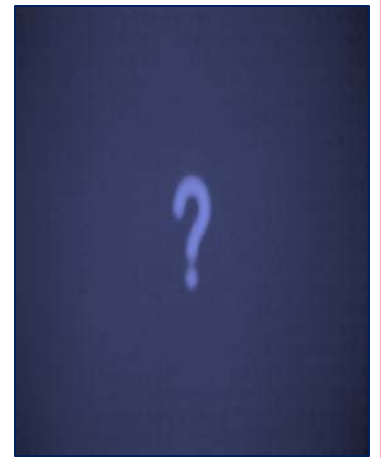
Health
insurance until
age 21*



Independent
Living Services



WHO IS A PROBATION SUPERVISED “FOSTER CARE YOUTH”?



- Suitable foster care placement order
- Removed from parent or guardian
and
- Ordered to non-parent placement

CAUTION!



SUITABLE PLACEMENT
ORDER

≠

RELEASE TO RESPONSIBLE
RELATIVE

or

HOME OF REMOVAL ORDER

(REMOVAL FROM RELATIVE AND RETURN TO HOME
OF REMOVAL)

STOP!



YOUTH MUST HAVE :
SUITABLE FOSTER CARE
PLACEMENT ORDER ON
18TH BIRTHDAY TO
QUALIFY FOR EXTENDED
FOSTER CARE BENEFITS
AFTER AGE 18



TO RECEIVE FINANCIAL BENEFITS YOUTH 18 & OVER MUST:

1. **MEET AGE - FOSTER CARE PLACEMENT ORDER ON 18TH BIRTHDAY**
2. Meet a participation condition
3. Sign a mutual agreement*
4. Agree to meet with probation officer (or social worker)
5. Agree to work on transitional independent living skills
6. Live in a licensed or approved setting
7. Have 6 month court review hearings

**Caregiver should not be denied payment when placed youth has not signed Mutual Agreement.*



PARTICIPATION CONDITIONS:

To stay eligible youth must do one of the following:

1. Be enrolled in high school or equivalent program
2. Be enrolled in college/vocational school
3. Work at least 80 hours/month
4. Participate in a program/activity that helps you find a job or removes barriers to employment
5. Be unable to do one of the above because of a medical or mental health condition



MUTUAL AGREEMENT

(PART 1)



- Youth agrees to:
 - Remain in a “supervised placement”
 - Report changes in student status, employment or job training
 - Report changes in living situation
 - Work with Agency on TILP
 - Participate in 6 month review hearings

Caregiver should not be denied payment when placed youth has not signed Mutual Agreement .

MUTUAL AGREEMENT

(PART 2)



- Agency agrees to:
 - Help youth develop and achieve goals
 - Review and update TILP every 6 months
 - Help youth stay eligible, respond to problems and connect youth with supports and services
 - Help youth and caregiver develop Shared Living Agreement
 - Ensure youth has Medi-Cal card or other health insurance
 - Provide youth with contact information for his/her attorney

Caregiver should not be denied payment when placed youth has not signed Mutual Agreement .

LIVING OPTIONS



- Relative or NREFM placement
- Foster home including foster family agency placement and intensive therapeutic foster care
- Group Homes (continued group care only to age 19 or high school graduation unless medical necessity)
- Small Family Home
- Whole Family Foster Home



- THPP
- THP + FC
- SILP (Supervised Independent Living Placement)
 - College dorm
 - Rented room
 - Shared apartment or living arrangement

TERMINATING PROBATION & CONTINUING BENEFITS:

Probation supervised foster youth who meet rehabilitative goals and are ready to have delinquency case terminated may qualify for extended foster benefits without being subject to delinquency jurisdiction:

- TRANSITION JURISDICTION (new court status)
- DEPENDENCY JURISDICTION
- REENTRY

Transition Jurisdiction:

Extended Benefits Without Hammer of Probation



- **What is it?**
 - New court status allows eligible probation supervised foster youth to be able to take advantage of extended benefits without remaining on probation(no probation conditions, violations or other sanctions). Encourages former delinquent youth who would otherwise leave the system when their delinquency case is over to participate in services.
- **How is this different from delinquency jurisdiction?**
 - Youth are not subject to any terms or conditions of probation
 - The case is managed as if the youth is a dependent foster youth not a delinquent

Transition Jurisdiction: Who is Eligible?



Rehabilitative goals have been met

AND

➤ 18 -21 years & foster care placement order on 18th birthday
OR

➤ Between 17 years, 5 months – 18 years

- Current foster care placement order
- No reunification. permanent plan of adoption or guardianship
- Return home is a substantial risk

(Also former delinquent youth eligible for re-entry can reenter into Transition Jurisdiction)

Dependency Jurisdiction: Closing Delinquency Case & Moving to Dependency



Re-Open Old Child Welfare Case if Youth

- Under age 18
- Has met rehabilitative goals
- Was in foster care when probation case opened
- At risk of abuse or neglect/ return home detrimental

Petition for New Child Welfare Case

- Under age 17 years, 5 months
- Has met rehabilitative goals
- Not in foster care when probation case opened
- At risk of abuse or neglect/return home detrimental

RE-ENTRY



Youth Leaving System After 18 Can Return

- Re-enter *unlimited times* if under the statutory age limits
- Re-entry is intended to be *accessible and easy*
- Youth eligible for benefits again as of *the date that the **Voluntary Reentry Agreement*** is signed and returns to an eligible placement

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Session 1

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