

## Glossary of Terms

### *A Supplement to Youth Law Center's Presentation: Advocacy Strategies for Preventing Involuntary Exits from THP-NMD*

**Extended Foster Care (EFC):** A program, established by Assembly Bill 12 (the California Fostering Connections to Success Act) (2010), that allows eligible young people to remain in foster care as “nonminor dependents” up until the age of 21 and access age-appropriate supports and services to help them transition to adulthood, including housing and case management. To be eligible:

- (1) Youth must have turned 18 years old while subject to a foster care placement order through the juvenile dependency or delinquency court, or if they turned 18 under a juvenile court legal guardianship or adoption order, then lost the support of their legal guardian or adoptive parent [Welf. & Inst. Code §§ 11400(v)(1), 388.1]
- (2) Youth must continue to be under the placement and care authority of the county placing agency (child welfare, juvenile probation, or tribe/organization) and live in a licensed or approved setting [Welf. & Inst. Code § 11400(v)(2)], and
- (3) Youth must have a transitional independent living case plan (TILCP) which documents the youth’s willingness to satisfy one of the five participation conditions under Welf. & Inst. Code § 11403(b) [Welf. & Inst. Code § 11400(v)(3)].

**Nonminor Dependent (NMD):** A young adult eligible to remain in foster care from age 18 through 21 if they meet the requirements for extended foster care (EFC), *see* Welf. & Inst. Code §§ 11400(v), (aa).

**Transitional Independent Living Case Plan (TILCP):** A document developed jointly by the county placing agency and the nonminor dependent that describes (amongst other things) the youth’s goals and objectives of how the nonminor will make progress in the transition to living independently and assume incremental responsibility for adult decision making, the collaborative efforts between the nonminor and the county placing agency, and the supportive services the nonminor is receiving. For a nonminor dependent who exited foster care at some point, a TILCP is not required until 60 days after the court has resumed jurisdiction over their case (i.e. they have reentered extended foster care), *see* Welf. & Inst. Code § 11400(y).

**Voluntary Reentry Agreement (“VRA”):** means a written voluntary agreement (available [here](#)) between a former dependent child or ward or a former nonminor dependent and the county welfare or probation department or tribal placing entity that documents the nonminor’s desire and willingness to (amongst other requirements):

- (a) reenter foster care,
- (b) be placed in a supervised setting under the placement and care responsibility of the placing agency,
- (c) immediately participate in one or more of the conditions of Welf. & Inst. Code § 11403(b)(1)-(5),
- (d) work collaboratively with the placing agency to develop their transitional independent living case plan (TILCP) within 60 days of reentry,

(e) report any changes of circumstances relevant to continued eligibility for foster care payments, and

(f) participate in the filing of a petition for juvenile court jurisdiction as a nonminor dependent under Welf. & Inst. Code § 388(e) (or Welf. & Inst. Code § 388.1 as applicable) ([JV-466](#)) within 15 judicial days of the signing of the agreement and the placing agency's efforts and supportive services to assist the nonminor in the reentry process.

See Welf. & Inst. Code §§ 11400(z), and 11403(b).

**Supervised Independent Living Settings (SILS):** Other placement options for NMDs in addition to those available for minor foster youth. These include a Supervised Independent Living Placement (SILP), transitional housing placement (THP-NMD), or a transitional living setting approved by the county to support youth who are entering or reentering foster care or transitioning between placements. See Cal. Welf. & Inst. Code §§ 11400(x), 11402(e).

**THP-M (Transitional Housing Placement Program for Minors):** Transitional Housing Program for youth ages 16 to 18 years of age. Eligible youth must have an order for foster care placement under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court as a dependent or ward, including minors under transition jurisdiction, see Welf. & Inst. Code § 16522.1(a)(1). For more information about THP-M, please see [Youth Law Center's Fact Sheet on THP-M](#).

**THP-NMD (Transitional Housing Placement Program for Nonminor Dependents):** Transitional Housing Program for youth ages 18 to 21 years of age. Eligible youth must be under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court as a NMD or ward, including NMDs under transition jurisdiction, or be under the placement and care authority of a county welfare or probation department pursuant to a voluntary reentry agreement, see Welf. & Inst. Code § 16522.1(a)(2). For more information about THP-NMD, please see [Youth Law Center's Fact Sheet on THP-NMD](#).

**THP-Plus (Transitional Housing Program-Plus):** Transitional Housing Program that provides housing and supportive services to former foster youth (including former foster youth who were in foster care through the juvenile delinquency court), ages 18 to 25 for up to 36 cumulative months. See Welf. & Inst. Code §§ 11400(s), 11403.2(a)(2). Note: As a result of SB 187 (2022), starting July 1, 2022, the THP-Plus program has a new upper age limit and maximum time allowance, so youth get an extra year of eligibility. Before July 1st, counties had the option to allow youth stay in the program up until the age of 25 (instead of 24) and up to 36 months total (instead of 24 months total) if the youth was a student. Now, the age and program-length extensions are **mandatory**, meaning that every county that provides THP-Plus has to allow youth to remain in the program for a total of 36 months or until age 25 and the youth does not have to be a student to qualify. For more information about THP-Plus, please see [Youth Law Center's Fact Sheet on THP-Plus](#).

**Licensed transitional housing placement provider<sup>1</sup>:** To become a licensed transitional housing placement provider, the provider must obtain a certification from the county specifying whether the facility will serve foster youth 16 to 18 years old, nonminor dependents, or both. After receiving certification, the Community Care Licensing Division (CCLD) of the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) can license THP-NMD agencies as children’s residential facilities. See Welf. & Inst. Code §§ 16552(a), 16552.1, and Health & Safety Code § 1559.110.

**Community Care Licensing Division** The division of CDSS that’s responsible for licensing THP-NMD programs and for investigating licensing complaints.

**County Placing Agency:** A child welfare agency, juvenile probation department, or tribe/tribal organization responsible for (amongst other responsibilities) placement and care of nonminor dependents (see Welf. & Inst. Code § 14000(k)), ensuring ongoing eligibility for extended foster care, finding NMDs safe and appropriate placement, engaging in case planning and providing reasonable services to youth.

**THP-NMD Agency:** a licensed transitional housing provider that provides both housing and supportive services to NMDs residing in their program. A roster of THP-NMD agencies can be found [here](#).

**Involuntary Exit:** An “involuntary exit” can encompass the loss of two distinct but overlapping components of THP-NMD:

- (1) the THP-NMD *program* (i.e. the supportive services and foster care funding), and
- (2) the youth’s possession of the *housing unit* that was secured by, but may not be owned by, the THP-NMD agency.

The loss of one component may not automatically result in the loss of the other.

**AFDC-FC:** Aid for Families with Dependent Children-Foster Care is the primary funding source for THP-NMD and other foster care placements, see Welf. & Inst. Code § 14000(a), 11401 and MPP §§ 45-100 - 45-300. It is colloquially known as “foster care funding”.

---

<sup>1</sup> We use the terms “provider”, “agency”, and “program” interchangeably throughout this document, our presentation, and the advocacy guide.