PURPOSE | POLICY | REQUIRED FORMS HYPERLINKS | REQUIRED ACTION

Age Requirements for Foster Care Children Between the Age of 18 and 19

Number: 45-201.11

Date: 11/1/1990 Revision: 12/1/2007

PURPOSE

In order for Foster Care payments to continue past the child's 18th birthday, certain graduation requirements must be met. This policy will give guidance and steps that must be taken in order to maintain Aid to Families with Dependent Children Foster Care (AFDC-FC).

APPROVED

This policy was approved by Mike Ryan, Director of CFS, on 2/19/10. Signature on file.

POLICY

When a foster care child turns 18, does the eligibility to aid continue?

Yes, but certain requirements must be met PRIOR to the 18th birthday:

- 1. The child must already be receiving AFDC-FC.
- Aid must have been paid prior to the 18th birthday.
- 1. The child must be enrolled in high school or vocational-technical training program, full time, with the expectation that the course of study be completed by age 19.
- 2. The authority for placement must continue.
- The child must continue as a dependent subject to court order.

What programs qualify as high school or vocational training?

The following programs meet the criteria for high school or vocational programs:

- Continuation school
- Group Home on site program preparing for a GED certificate
- Vocational-technical training programs with a specific goal that does not lead to a college degree

What programs do not qualify?

The following programs DO NOT meet the school requirement:

- Private tutorial programs preparing for a GED certificate
- Correspondence courses
- Television courses
- College level courses

How is full-time enrollment defined?

Full-time enrollment is:

- · Defined by the school.
- Not affected by school vacations, illness, or convalescence of the student, or family emergency requiring the child's absence.

What happens if completion of the goal is not met by the 19th birthday?

If the goal is not met by the end of the course, the child may re-enroll in the same course, provided the completion is still anticipated prior to the $19^{\rm th}$ birthday.

If completion and the 19^{th} birthday are in the same month, does this meet the requirement?

Yes, if the completion requirements are met prior to the 19th birthday.

- Example:
- The child's birthday is June 20th. Child graduated on June 19th.
- The criteria are met if the graduation requirements were met.

Payment eligibility ends:

For a child **NOT** meeting the criteria for continuing payment after age 18.

Eligibility ends the day prior to the child turning 18.

For a child completing a course of study

• Eligibility ends the day prior to completion.

For a child leaving a program

• Eligibility may continue if the child re-enrolls prior to the end of the month in another program that meets the graduation requirements.

Note: Foster Care payments do not continue past the child's 19th birthday.

When are graduation requirements verified?

Graduation requirements are verified:

- Starting at age 17, the ET must begin requesting school verifications using CalWIN Notice of Action (NOA) CSF 37. Follow up is to be completed every 6 months until age 19.
- If the Social Worker reports a change in circumstances.

What happens should a child fail to complete the anticipated graduation requirements?

Should the child fail to complete the requirements after an anticipated date is set, an overpayment would be in effect the day the new information was received by the ET.

Can a minor continue to receive funding after age 18 if graduation requirements are not expected to be met?

If a minor is not expected to complete the graduation requirements prior to age 19, county funds can be used to pay for placement costs, as long as the minor remains a dependent of the court.

REQUIRED FORMS HYPERLINKS	Form Name	Form Number	
	School Attendance Verification	F063-30-393	

PROCEDURE

REQUIRED ACTION

The following actions must be completed when children are 17 years old.

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Responsibility	Step	Required Action
Foster Care Eligibility Technician (ET)	1.	Requests CalWIN Client Correspondence CSF 37 when minor turns age 17 and sends to current placement.
	1.	Upon return of CSF 37, ET enters information into the Display Student Summary screen in CalWIN.
	1.	Controls for dates and continues follow-up at least every 6 months until age 19. Note: If CSF 37 is not received by the child's 18 th birthday, CalWIN automatically shuts down the Foster Care case.