Extended Foster Care (**EFC**)



Participant Guide

Office of Child Welfare

Introduction

Why This, Why Now? Title IV-E Waiver

•	In 2007, Florida entered into a Title IV-E Demonstration Waiver which allowed the
	state to:
	- Waive certain provisions of the Title IV-E Social Security Act.

- Use the funds for a wide variety of child welfare purposes rather than being restricted to eligible children in licensed foster care homes or institutions.

Why This, Why Now? Title IV-E Waiver Expiration

- The Title IV-E Waiver expired in September 2018. Florida requested and was granted an extension until September 2019.
- With the sunsetting of the waiver, the Department expects to lose \$90 million dollars in revenue that goes to the CBCs to fund services to families and positions.

Why This, Why Now? Path Forward

- Path Forward is the statewide initiative to prepare for the post-waiver environment.
- The Department has identified initiatives that can be used to draw down additional federal funds to support the state's Child Welfare System:
 - Title IV-E Extended Foster Care (EFC) and Extended Maintenance Adoption Subsidy (EMAS)
 - Guardianship Assistance Program (GAP)
 - Candidacy
 - Title IV-E eligibility clean-up

Title IV-E EFC Program

- The EFC program is currently funded with general revenue/ state funds.
- Florida has elected to move to a federally-funded Title IV-E program to supplement general state revenue.
 - Although the current EFC Program incorporates several components that model the requirements in the federal Fostering Connections Act, moving to a federally-funded program requires policy changes and FSFN enhancements to support these changes.

Program Policy Changes

Statute	Rule	Policy
Chapter 39.6251 F.S., Continuing care for young adults	65C-41 Extended Foster Care DRAFT	CFOP 170-17: Chapter 2, Transition Planning for Youth
		CFOP 170-17: Chapter 3, Extended Foster Care DRAFT
		CFOP 170-17: Chapter 7, Extended Federally Funded Foster Care (Temporary while 65C-41 is promulgated) DRAFT

EFC Forms

New and Updated Forms:

- Extended Foster Care Agreement (CF-FSP 5432)
- Supervised Living Arrangement Assessment for Extended Foster Care (CF-FSP 5431)
- Shared Living Plan for Extended Foster Care (CF-FSP 5430)
- Notice of Denial for Readmission into Extended Foster Care (CF-FSP 5410)
- Notice of Discharge from Extended Foster Care (CF-FSP 5376)
- Extended Foster Care Voluntary Placement Agreement (CF-FSP 5377)

Existing Forms:

- My Pathway to Success Plan form (CF-FSP 5425)
- My Decision to Leave Extended Foster Care (CF-FSP 5375)
- Oral Request for Fair Hearing (CF-FSP 5381)
- Due Process Rights Brochure (CF/PI 175-74)
- Request for Fair Hearing (CF-FSP 5830)

Definitions

- **Child:** An individual who has not attained 21 years of age.
- Youth: Children 13-17 years of age under the Department's protective supervision.
- Young Adult: An individual who has attained 18 years of age, but who has not attained 21 years of age. 39.6251, F.S.



Implementation Dates

• FSFN -	N functionality goes live on January 4, 2019. Begin using functionality immediately.	

Youth		Young Adult With Disability			
13 to 17	18	18 19 20 21			22
Transition Planning Youth Transitioning to Young Adult:	Youth Turns • Young Adult's Info	rmation			
Opt-Out of EFC PESS Aftercare	 Separates from Fai Begin Supervised L Arrangement Existing IV-E Eligibit Applies 	iving			
No Program	Continued Participation in EFC				
 Enter EFC Obtain EFC Agreement Assess Living Arrangement Establish Shared Living Plan 		Monthly Home Visits Review Transition Planning Discuss Shared Living Plan Review Qualifying Monthly Home Visits Observe the Hom Review Qualifying			
Evaluate Program Eligibility		Annual Pro	ogram Eligibility Re	determination	♦
	\Q	Biannual Case Plar	nning, Judicial Revie	ews, and IV-E Eligibility	\Diamond \Diamond
	Termination of EFC Requires Approval of the Department Some Termination Reasons are Appealable				
	Reentry to Foster Care • Anytime Before 21 Years of Age • Requires Complete Voluntary Placement Agreement				

Workshop Topics

- Transition Services
- Youth Transitioning to Young Adult: 90 Days Prior to 18th Birthday
- Youth Turns 18
- Continued Participation in EFC
- Termination of EFC
- Re-Entry into EFC
- Current EFC Population

Transition Services

Transition Plan

- Transition Plans are developed with the youth using the My Pathway to Success Plan (CF-FSP 5425) starting at age 16.
- Initial plan must be completed by the time the youth is 16½ and filed with the court to align with the special 17-year-old Judicial Review hearing.
- Topics include:
 - Short-term goals
 - Long-term goals
 - Housing
 - Health insurance
 - Education
 - Financial literacy
 - Driver's license, includes Keys to Independence
 - Workforce support and employment services



Transition Services

- The development of the Transition Plan includes a discussion about which program the youth plans to enter:
 - EFC
 - Postsecondary Education Services and Support (PESS)
 - Aftercare
 - No Program

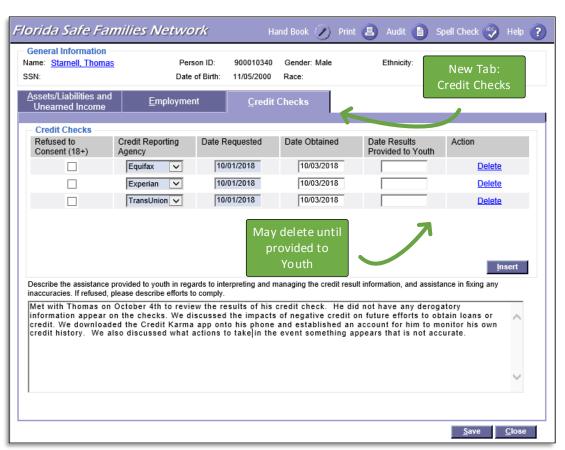
Print Audit Spell Check W Help ? ok Print Audit Spell Check Help ? Participant Details FSFN Case 900001980 Starnell, Mommy **Participants** Thomas Starnell Case id: 900001980 Kellie Darnell Date Uploaded: Actions: Upload Image 10/30/2018 Date Document Scanned: Image Category: Launched from Image Type: Transition Plan Completed Date : 10/30/2018 Upload Image File Name: Comments: <u>Save</u> <u>C</u>lose New Field: Text: Completed Date Aftercare Services Insert <u>Save</u> <u>C</u>lose

Independent Living Page - Upload Image

Credit Checks



 The credit check process has not changed, but will now be able to be documented in FSFN.



Assets and Employment Page – Credit Checks

Youth Transitioning to Young Adult: 90 Days Prior to 18th Birthday

Youth Transitioning to Young Adult: 90 Days prior to 18th Birthday Opt-Out of EFC PESS Aftercare No Program Enter EFC Obtain EFC Agreement Assess Living Arrangement Establish Shared Living Plan Evaluate Program Eligibility

Preparing Youth Who Are Turning 18 in Department Custody

- During the 90-day period before a youth turns 18 in the legal custody of the Department, the following activities must occur:
 - Transition Plan must be revised.
 - An updated Transition Plan must be documented in FSFN and filed with the court at the last review before youth's 18th birthday.

•	During this period the Child Welfare Professional needs to discuss EFC program eligibility and participation expectations with youth.

Youth Opts Out of EFC

•	If the youth chooses not to enter EFC at 18, the Child Welfare Professional must
	discuss with the youth:

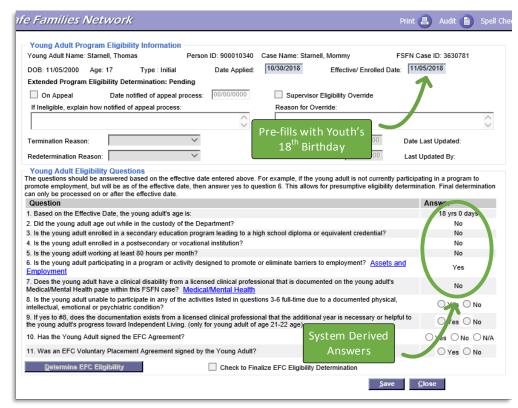
- Enrollment in PESS, if eligibleEnrollment in Aftercare

 After this discussion, if the youth still intends not to enter EFC, the Child Welfare Professional provides the youth with the My Decision to Leave Extended Foster Care form (CF-FSP 5375).
Document Review
My Decision to Leave Extended Foster Care (CF-FSP 5375)
The Child Welfare Professional uploads the form to FSFN and files it with the court.

EFC Program Eligibility Requirements



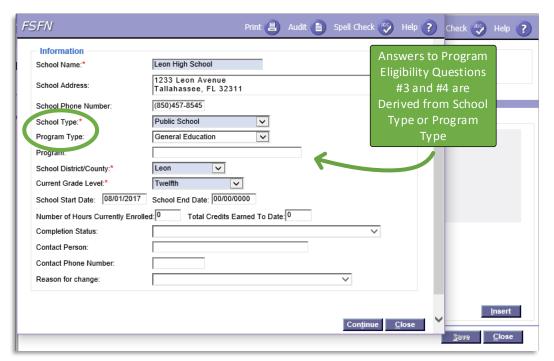
- All youth in the Department's legal custody on their 18th birthday will enter EFC, unless they opt out, but must meet eligibility requirements to stay in the program.
- To remain in EFC, the young adult must:
 - Engage in one or more of the qualifying activities.
 - Reside in an approved supervised living arrangement.
- The Child Welfare Professional must encourage the young adult to:
 - Participate in on-going supervision, including 30-day home visits.
 - Participate in transition planning and case planning.



Young Adult Program Eligibility Page

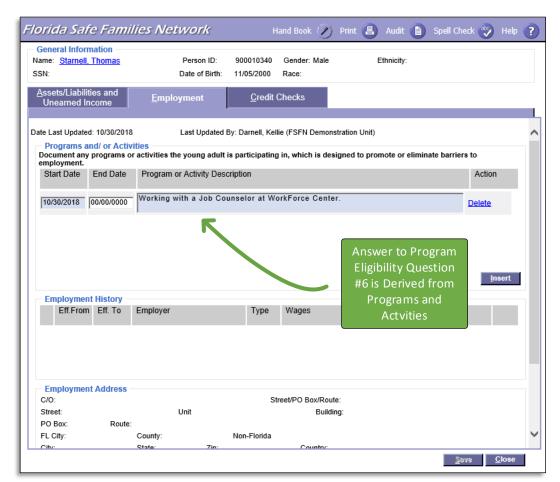
Qualifying Activities

- Qualifying activities include:
 - Completing secondary education or a program leading to an equivalent credential
 - Enrolling in an institution which provides post-secondary or vocational education
 - Participating in a program or activity designed to promote, or remove barriers to, employment
 - Being employed for at least 80 hours per month
- Once the youth turns 18, they must be participating in at least one qualifying activity, but can participate in multiple activities.



Education

	School Type	Program Type
3. Is the young adult enrolled in a secondary education program leading to a high school diploma or equivalent credential?	 Alternative School Charter School Group Home Program Home School Juvenile Detention/Corrections Private School Public School RTF Program Vocational/Technical 	 Adult Education Alternative Public-School Program Career & Vocational Education GED General Education Pre GED
4. Is the young adult enrolled in a postsecondary or vocational institution?	 2-year college 4-year college or university Vocational/Technical 	 Adult Education Alternative Public- School Program Career & Vocational Education Post-Secondary



Assets and Employment Page

Document Review

Extended Foster Care Agreement (CF-FSP 5432)

•	This agreement and any supporting documentation is uploaded to the
	Independent Living File Cabinet in FSFN and filed with the court at the last review
	hearing before the youth's 18 th birthday.

Extended Foster Care Agreement: Special Circumstances

- If the youth refuses to sign the Extended Foster Care Agreement form, the Child Welfare Professional documents the refusal by writing "refused to sign" on the form.
- If the youth is unable to sign the form, the Child Welfare Professional documents the inability by writing "unable to sign" on the form.

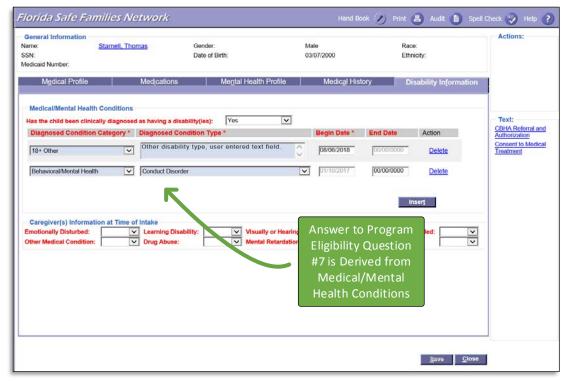
 Not signing the form does not prevent the youth from entering EFC. 					

Working with Youth with a Disability or Medical Condition

If the youth is unable to complete the Extended Foster Care Agreement due to a disability, the Child Welfare Professional should work with the youth's guardian in determining program eligibility and obtaining consent to participate.

If youths are incapable of doing any of the qualifying activities due to a medical

condition and/or disability, they must provide documentation.



Medical/Mental Health Page

Supervised Living Arrangement



- Living arrangements must meet all of the requirements and be assessed and approved by the Child Welfare Professional.
- The Child Welfare Professional decides if the living arrangement is approved on a case-by-case basis, considering the needs and desires of the young adult and the level of supervision and support that he/she needs.
- The young adult may share housing with others if they are approved based on the assessment. This may include criminal background checks.

Supervised Living Arrangement Considerations

 A young adult may share housing with other 	·persons:
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All household members must be approved based on an assessment of the young adult's needs and safety concerns.

•	If a young adult is o	[·] will be detained f	for a period	longer than 3	o days:
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- The young adult is no longer considered living in the approved supervised living arrangement.
- Termination process for EFC program is initiated.

Document Review

Supervised Living Arrangement Assessment (CF-FSP 5431)

•	court.	ed With

Shared Living Plan

 Once an approved living arrangement has been identified and approve Welfare Professional, youth, and any other applicable people will deve using the Shared Living Plan form (CF-FSP 5430). This plan outlines expectations and fundamental, routine needs to the youth is provided an appropriate level of supervision, services, supports in their home environment. 	lop a plan ensure that
Document Review	
Shared Living Plan (CF-FSP 5430)	
This assessment is uploaded in FSFN, supports the Transition Plan, and the court.	is filed with

Sequence of Events

- When a youth continues into EFC, the Child Welfare Professional will:
 - Complete the Extended Foster Care Agreement form (CS-FSP 5432) with the youth to review and confirm program eligibility.
 - Assess the living arrangement using the Supervised Living Arrangement Assessment (CF-FSP 5431).
 - Complete the Shared Living Plan (CF-FSP 5430) for the approved supervised living arrangement.
 - Evaluate program eligibility
- This process should begin 90 days before the youth's 18th birthday.

Independent Living Image Types	Forms
Appeals and Notices	Notice of Discharge from Extended Foster Care
Appeals and Notices	Notice of Denial for Readmission into Extended Foster Care
Application	
Assessments	
Checklist	
EFC Agreement	Extended Foster Care Agreement
EFC Voluntary Placement Agreement	Extended Foster Care Voluntary Placement Agreement
Face-to-Face Form	
Other Documents	My Decision to Leave Extended Foster Care
Plans	
Shared Living Agreement	Shared Living Plan
Supervised Independent Living Assessment	Supervised Living Arrangement Assessment
Transition Plan	My Pathway to Success Plan

Youth Turns 18

Youth Turns 18

- Young Adult's Information Separates from Family
- Begin Supervised Living Arrangement
- Existing IV-E Eligibility Status Applies

Creating a New Young Adult Case



•	A Young Adult Case is created for ALL youth that turn 18 while in the legal status of Department Custody.	of

Medicaid

•	All youth who turn 18 in the Department's custody are eligible for Child-in-Care
	(CIC) Medicaid through the MCFE IV-E Medicaid coverage or MCFN non-IV-E
	Medicaid coverage programs until they turn 21.

•	The CBC is res	ponsible for r	naintaining tl	he FSFN N	ا Medicaid	oage.
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-	When young adults need to update their Medicaid information, such as a
	change of address, they will inform the CBC so updates can be made in FSFN.

Affordable Care Act

- Once a young adult turns 21, they are eligible for the Affordable Care Act (ACA) until the age of 26.
- There is no income limit.
- Young adults must apply for coverage through Economic Self Sufficiency (ESS).
- CIC Medicaid closure is sent via FSFN when the young adult turns 21.

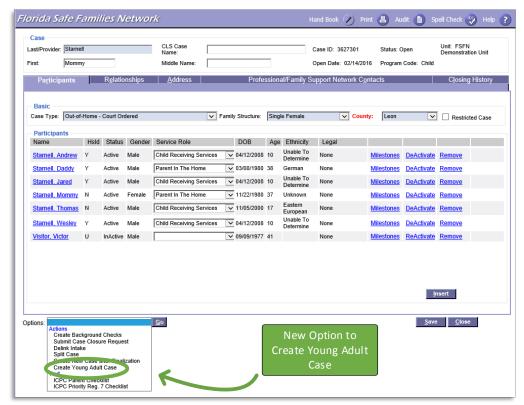
Supplemental Security Income and Medicaid

- If young adults receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI), they will not receive CIC Medicaid even if they turned 18 in the Department's custody.
- If young adults stop receiving SSI at any point between the ages of 18 and 21, the CBC can apply for CIC Medicaid for them.

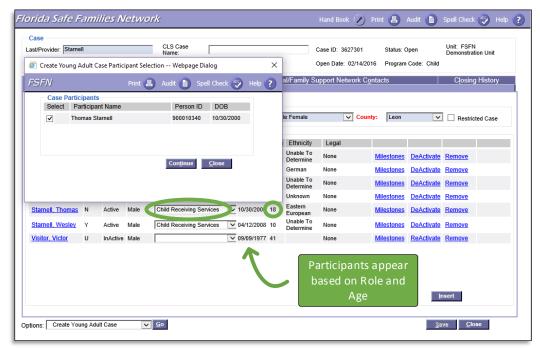


If young adults stop receiving SSI at any point between the ages of 21 and 26, they can apply for the ACA.

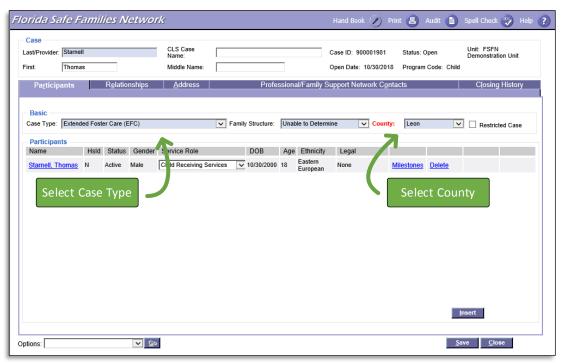
Moving from Family Case to Young Adult Case Youth Opts-out of EFC **Family** Young Adult Youth Opts-out of EFC: Young Adult Opted-out of EFC: • No Young Adult Program Eligibility Discharge Out of Home Placement at 18 • Upload Opt-out Form **Create Young Adult Case Moves the Following:** • Initiate PESS Eligibility, if applicable Young Adult Enters PESS or Aftercare: • Finalize PESS program eligibility or Medicaid Eligibility page • Do Not Discharge Out of Home Aftercare documentation Placement Create Living Arrangement page Current Removal Episode · Create Service to generate payments **Placements Associated Payments** Non-Placement Services and associated Payments IV-E Foster Care Eligibility TANF Eligibility IV-E Adoption Eligibility Adoption Subsidy Agreement Family Young Adult Foster Care Rate Setting • File Cabinet Records related only to the Young Adult's Person ID Youth Entering EFC: Young Adult Enters EFC: A copy of the Medical Mental Health record for the • Initiate Young Adult Program • Finalize Young Adult Program Eligibility Young Adult. Eligibility • End Date Out of Home Placement at 18 Independent Living • Upload EFC Forms • Start new Out of Home Placement for • Document Qualifying Activities Meetings specific to the Young Adult's Person ID Supervised Independent Living Arrangement • If Provider is a Person Provider, add Young Adult to provider record as Household member. Youth Entering EFC



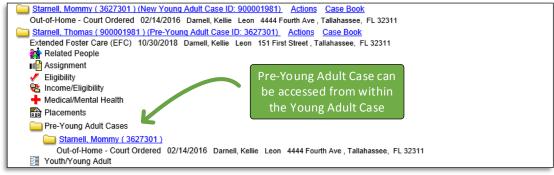
Maintain Case Page - Create Young Adult Case



Maintain Case Page - Create Young Adult Case



Maintain Case Page - Young Adult Case

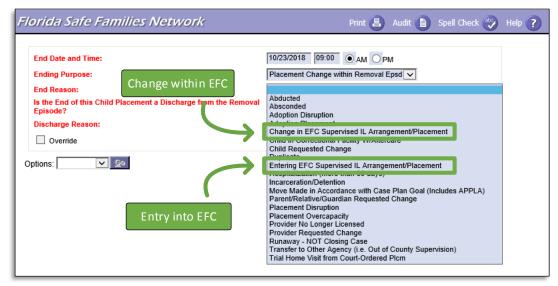


Outliner – Family Case and Young Adult Case

FSFN Placements for EFC

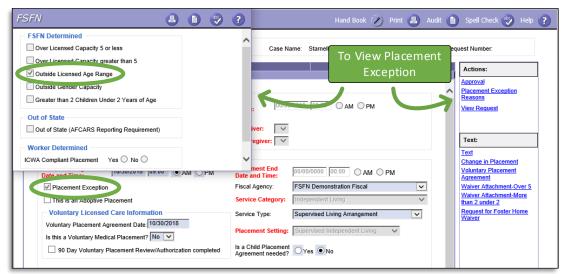
- Out-of-Home placement will be used to document program enrollment in EFC and generate payments.
- Living Arrangement page will be used to document program enrollment in PESS and Aftercare.

Services page will be used to generate payments for PESS and Aftercare.

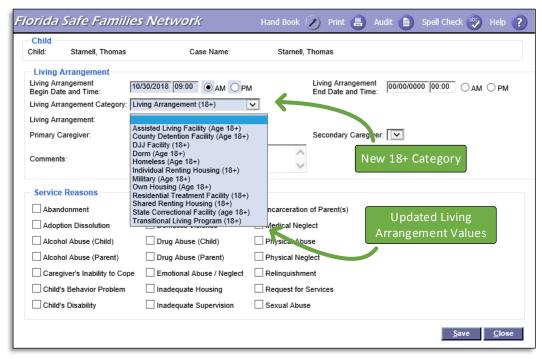


Placement End Reasons



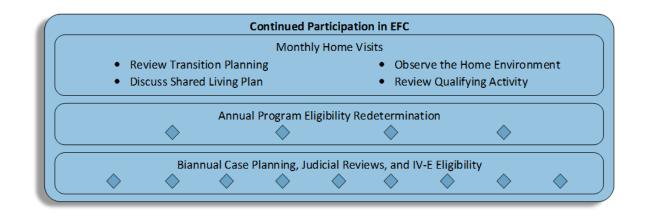


Out of Home Placement - Nonconforming Placement



Living Arrangement Page

Continued Participation in EFC



Ongoing Title IV-E Eligibility Requirements

- Young adults who transition directly into EFC when they turn 18 retain their Title IV-E eligibility.
 - For young adults who were determined IV-E ineligible as a child at the first judicial hearing post 18, the removal episode will be ended and a VPA executed.
 - For young adults who were determined to be IV-E eligible as a child, the same ongoing IV-E eligibility requirements apply.



Ongoing Eligibility Requirements

•	To remai	n in EF0	I, the	young	adult	t must:
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- Engage in one or more of the qualifying activities
- Reside in an approved supervised living arrangement

- Participate in ongoing supervision, including 30-day home visits.
- Participate in transition planning and case planning.

Qualifying Activities

- The young adult must sign necessary releases to enable the Child Welfare Professional to document the young adult's participation in the qualifying activity or activities.
- A young adult may change qualifying activities at any time.

•	A change of qualifying activity type requires a new EFC Agreement.	
		_

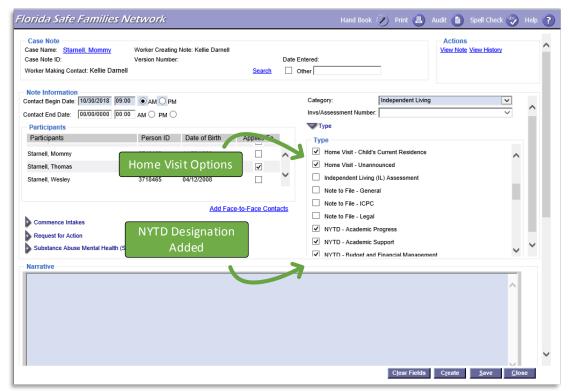
Supervised Living Arrangement

- The young adult must continue to reside in a supervised living arrangement that is approved by the CBC lead agency and acceptable to the young adult.
- After the supervised living arrangement has been approved it is the youth's responsibility to inform the Child Welfare Professional of any changes in the living arrangement.

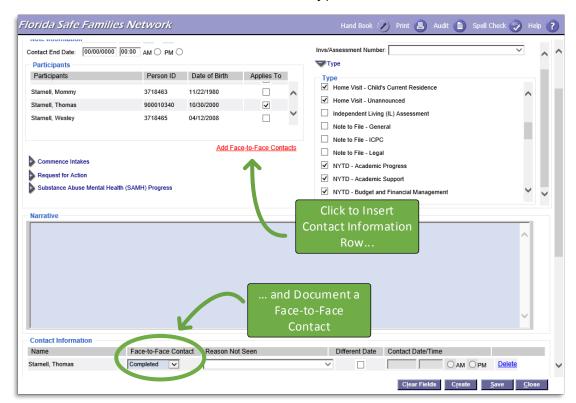


Home Visits

- Face-to-face home visits are required every 30 days.
- During the home visit, the Child Welfare Professional:
 - Observes the home environment.
 - Conducts ongoing transition planning, including a review of the Transition Plan and Case Plan as needed.
 - Discusses the supervised living arrangement, Shared Living Plan, qualifying activities, general safety, and life skills.



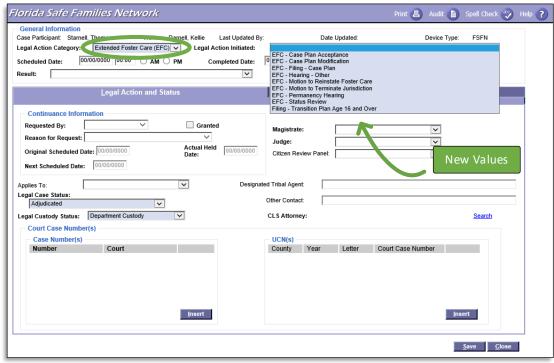
Case Note Types



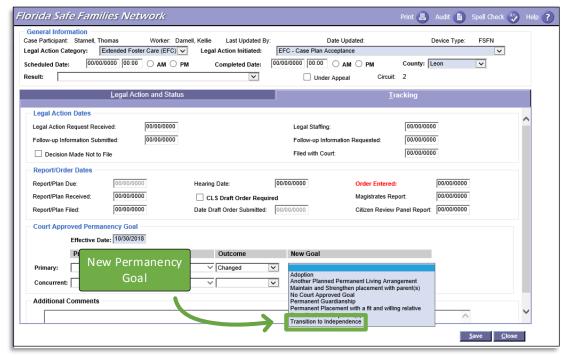
Case Note - Face-to-Face Contacts

Ongoing Court Involvement

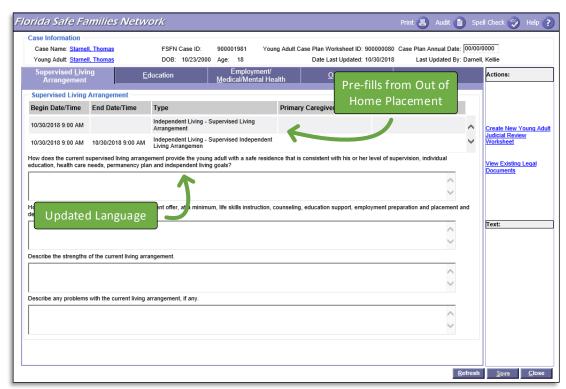
- While the young adult is in EFC, the court maintains jurisdiction.
- The court conducts annual Permanency Review hearings and six-month Judicial Review hearings.
- No policy changes for Case Plan and Judicial Review requirements, but there are changes to FSFN to support the policy.



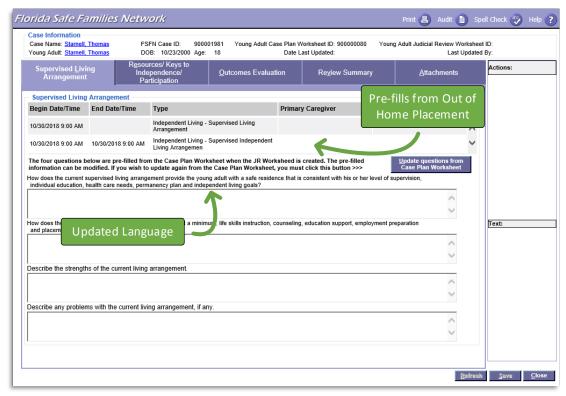
Extended Foster Care Legal Actions



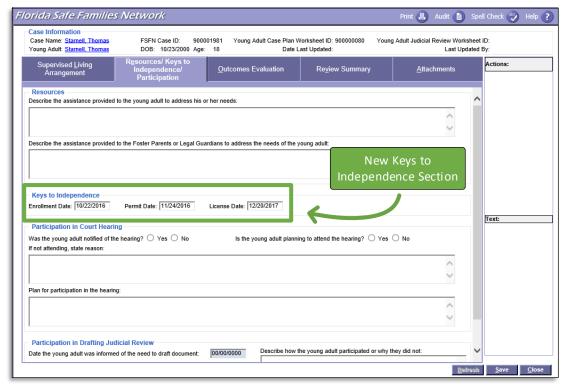
New Permanency Goal



Young Adult Case Plan



Young Adult Judicial Review - Supervised Living Arrangement



Young Adult Judicial Review - Keys to Independence

Young Adult Judicial Review - Review Summary

Program Eligibility Re-Determination

- Program eligibility re-determination is conducted annually.
- Documentation of the young adult's qualifying activity must be obtained before the re-determination is made.

Per CFOP 170-12 (2-4):

- a. Documentation for qualifying activities included but are not limited to:
 - i. Completing secondary education or a program leading to an equivalent credential.
 - 1. Copy of most recent report card documenting that the child is in good standings based on their academics and attendance.
 - 2. Copy of young adult's attendance record.
 - 3. If the young adult has an IEP, a copy of young adult's IEP must be accompanied by one of the items above.
 - ii. Enrolled in an institution which provides post-secondary or vocational education.

- Copy of most recent transcript documenting that the child is in good standings based on their academics and attendance.
- 2. A letter on institution's letterhead from the academic advisor stating the young adult is in good standings based on their academics and attendance
- iii. Participation in a program or activity designed to promote, or remove barriers to employment.
 - 1. Copy of most recent transcript documenting the young adult is in good standings based on their academics and attendance
 - 2. A letter on institution's letterhead from the academic advisor stating the young adult is in good standings based on their academics and attendance
- iv. Employed for at least 80 hours per month
 - 1. Copies of most recent pay stubs that equate to at least 80 hours per month.
 - 2. A letter on employer's letterhead from the employer stating that the young adult is employed and has worked a minimum of 80 hours per month.
- v. Documentation that they are incapable of doing any other qualifying activities due to a medical condition.

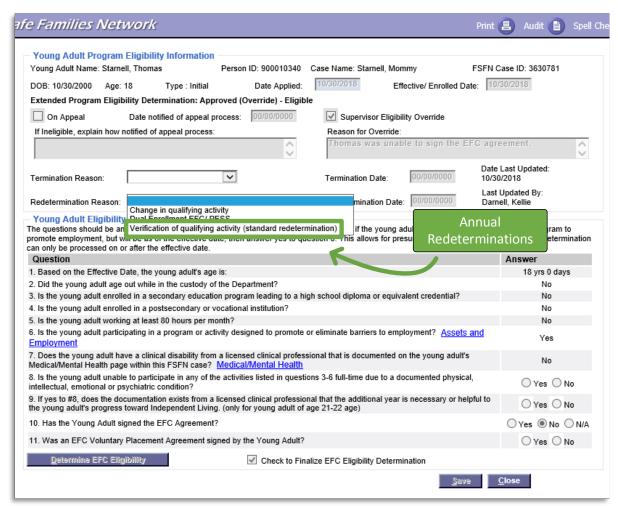
b.	A young adult who is on a semester, summer break or other break but enrolled in the school the previous semester and will be enrolled after the break, is considered enrolled in school.

b.

Remaining in EFC until 22

- The EFC Program ends when young adults turn 21 unless they have a documented disability. If so, they must be actively participating on their 21st birthday.
- The Child Welfare Professional must discuss with the young adult and any designated decision-making authority within 180 days of the young adult's 20th birthday to see if he/she wants to remain in EFC after turning 21. This is part of transition planning.

•	The Child Welfare Professional gives the form My Decision to Leave Extended Fost Care (CF-FSP 5375) to the young adult if he/she requests to be discharged or opt out.			



Young Adult Program Eligibility - Redetermination Reasons

Termination of EFC

Termination of EFC

- Requires Approval of the Department
- Some Termination Reasons are Appealable

Program Termination Reasons

Termination with Appeal Process:

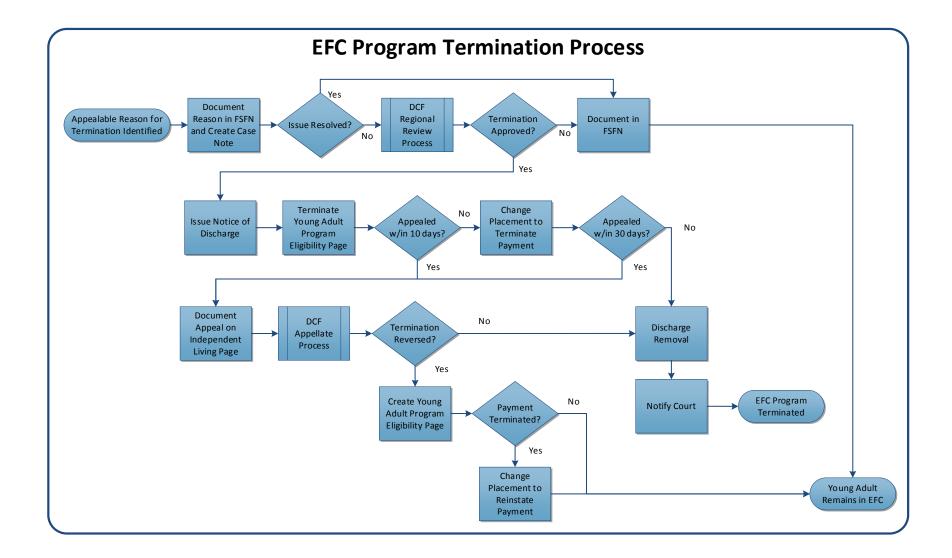
- Achieved permanency
- Aged out
- Not participating in a qualifying activity
- Not residing in an approved, supervised living arrangement
- Termination without Appeal Process:
 - Voluntary opt-out
 - Deceased

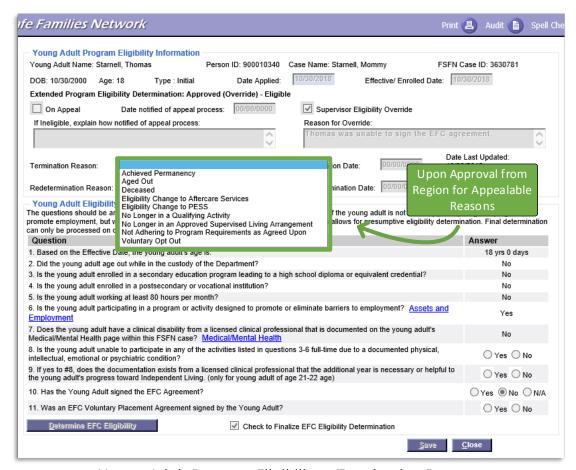


Recommending Discharge

•	If the Child Welfare Professional determines the young adult should be discharged
	from the program for an appealable termination reason, he/she makes a
	recommendation to the Department's regional operations representative for
	review and agreement.

 Upon agreement of denial, the Child Welfare Professional offers to assist the young adult in resuming eligibility and provides the Notice of Discharge from Extended Foster Care (CF-FSP 5376). 	
Pocument Review	
Notice of Discharge from Extended Foster Care (CF-FSP 5376)	
The Child Welfare uploads the form to FSFN.	
	-





Young Adult Program Eligibility - Termination Reasons

Conflict Resolution and Appeals

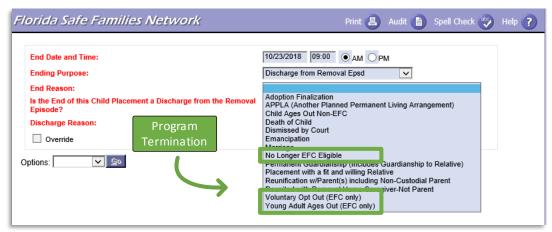
- The request for a hearing may be made orally or in writing.
- The Oral Request for Fair Hearing form (CF-FSP 5381) is used by the Child Welfare Professional to document the young adult's request.
- An oral request is made on the date the young adult speaks with the Child Welfare Professional, CBC agency, or DCF Office of Appeal Hearings.
- Written requests are made on the date that the young adult sends it by U.S. Mail, email, or hand-delivery.

Florida Safe Families Network

Case Information
Participant Stameli. Thomas DOB: 03/07/2000 Age: 18 Person ID: 90/00/0380 Case Name. Stameli. Mommy FSFN Case 3627301 ID: 18 Name. N

Independent Living Page

Independent Living Page - Appeal



Placement Discharge Reasons

Re-Entry into Foster Care

Reentry to Foster Care

- Anytime Before 21 Years of Age
- Requires Complete Voluntary Placement Agreement

Re-Entry Process

- Young adults may re-enter EFC any time before their 21st birthday.
- The young adult must complete the Extended Foster Care Voluntary Placement Agreement (VPA) (CS-FSP 5377).
- The VPA initiates the young adult's new foster care episode based on the last signature date on the agreement.



Document Review

Extended Foster Care Voluntary Placement Agreement (CF-FSP 5377)

•	The agreement is uploaded in FSFN.

Approval of EFC

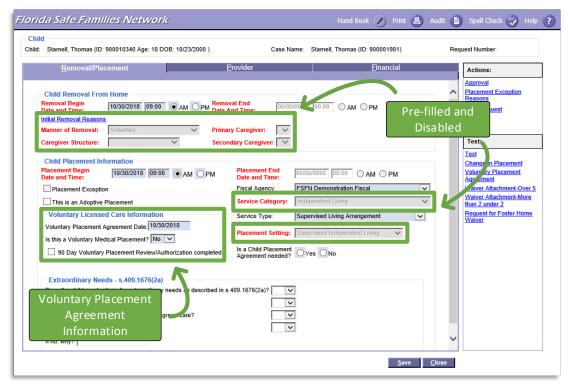
- Before the CBC representative signs the VPA approving re-entry into foster care, the Child Welfare Professional must ensure the young adult meets all eligibility requirements by:
 - Verifying qualifying activity
 - Assessing and approving the supervised living arrangement (includes completion of the Shared Living Plan)



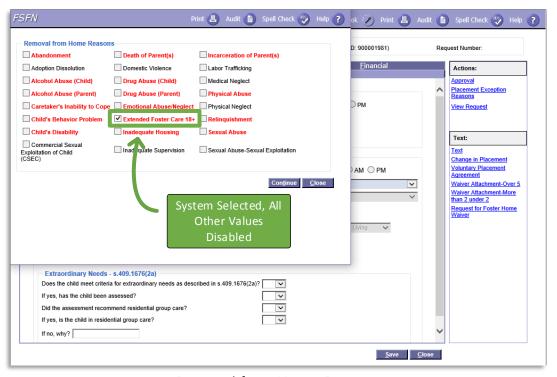
The young adult is notified of approval or denial within ten business days of submitting the agreement.

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•	If re-entry into EFC is approved, CLS or the Department's legal representative must be contacted within three days.
•	Reinstatement of jurisdiction occurs within 90 days from the time the VPA is signed by all parties.
Deni	al of EFC
•	If a CBC agency recommends denial because the young adult does not meet eligibility requirements, they send it to the Department's regional operations representative for review.
•	Upon agreement of denial, the Child Welfare Professional provides the Notice of Denial for Readmission into Extended Foster Care (CF-FSP 5410).
Docu	iment Review
	Notice of Denial for Readmission into Extended Foster Care (CF-FSP 5410)
•	The Child Welfare Professional uploads the form to FSFN.



Out of Home Placement - Over 18



Removal from Home Reasons

Resources

•	EFC/EMAS Project Site:	
	http://www.centerforchildwelfare.org/il	efc.shtm

- FSFN How Do I Guides and User Guides: http://centerforchildwelfare.fmhi.usf.edu/FSFNAll.shtml#HowdoI
- Forms: https://eds.dcf.state.fl.us/DCFFormsIntranet/Search/DCFFormSearch.aspx
- Questions:

 Brandie.McCabe@myflfamilies.com