ORANGE COUNTY SOCIAL SERVICES AGENCY

CFS OPERATIONS MANUAL

Effective Date: September 30, 1988 **Number: H-0101**
Revised: March 1, 1994
Revised: October 24, 2008

AFDC-FC: 18 Year Olds

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Purpose

To provide social work staff with guidelines for extending Aid to Families with Dependent Children-Foster Care (AFDC-FC) past a youth's 18th birthday.

Approved

This policy was approved by Mike Ryan, Director of CFS, on October 24, 2008. *Signature on file*.

Background

Regulations allow foster care placement to continue after age 18 with AFDC-FC funding, if the youth is working to meet educational goals.

This revision includes the pursuit of a General Educational Development (GED) as an educational goal, added by Assembly Bill (AB) 1633. Portions of this policy regarding school verification requirements also apply to legal guardian non-dependency cases, if AFDC-FC funding continues after age 18.

This CFS Policy and Procedure (P&P) was previously titled, "18 Year Olds: Eligibility."

Legal Mandates

Eligibility and Assistance Standards, Division 45 Section 201.111 provides eligibility criteria for foster care funding for 18 year olds.

Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) Section 11403 provides required conditions for extending foster care to youth following their 18th birthday.

All County Letter (ACL) 89-42, dated May 12, 1989, provides policy regarding continuance of AFDC-FC eligibility for youth who are 18 years old.

Assembly Bill (AB) 1633 (Chapter 641, Statutes of 2005) allowed foster care to be extended to 18 year olds who were pursuing a GED.

ACL 07-09, dated February 6, 2007, and ERRATA, dated September 11, 2007 instructs counties on changes made by AB 1633 and clarifies that youth must be participating in the GED program full time.

POLICY

Continuation of AFDC-FC

AFDC-FC will be terminated for youth on their 18th birthday unless they meet specific eligibility criteria for continuing to age 19.

AFDC-FC may continue if all of the following applies:

A. The youth was receiving AFDC-FC prior to age 18.

B. The youth was attending high school or a vocational/technical training program which could not result in a college degree or was pursuing a GED on a full-time basis prior to age 18.

C. The general AFDC-FC requirements continue to be met. For a complete listing of eligibility requirements, refer to CFS P&P AFDC-FC (H-0102).

D. Court dependency and foster care placement continue.

E. High school or vocational/technical training attendance remains on a full-time basis or GED work continues full-time with a reasonable expectation of program completion by age 19. Full-time enrollment will be defined and verified by the school. A youth is considered to be attending on a full-time basis if the student is enrolled in a full-time program.

F. The youth has signed a mutual agreement with Children and Family Services (CFS) which documents the continued need for foster care placement. This agreement, *Mutual Agreement for 18 Year Olds (SOC 155B),* must be signed prior to or within the month the youth reaches age 18 **unless** continued placement is due to Court order or the youth is incapable of making an informed agreement.

For youth approaching age 18, the Senior Social Worker (SSW) will conference with the youth and caregiver regarding continuance of dependency and AFDC-FC.

If foster care continues, placement supervision, in-person contacts, and general case management will continue to be the responsibility of the SSW.

The youth's Eligibility Technician (ET) will be responsible for making school verification requests. Beginning at age 17, the ET will notify the caregiver of the need for school verification and continue to follow-up every six months, as appropriate. *School Attendance Verification (CSF 37)* is used for this purpose.

Both full-time enrollment and reasonable expectation of program completion prior to age 19 will be defined and determined by the school program, not CFS.

Juvenile Court will continue to conduct Periodic Review hearings every six months for the 18 year old.

Termination of AFDC-FC

Payment eligibility ends the day prior to school completion, vocational/technical program completion, or the day prior to their 19th birthday, whichever comes first. Neither federal nor state AFDC-FC can continue past a youth's 19th birthday.

AFDC-FC will also be terminated if notification is received documenting that the youth cannot complete his/her program as previously expected. The date the information is received is the effective date of termination.

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Termination of Dependency

Dependency may terminate when the youth graduates, completes, ends, or is terminated from one of the above programs. Court may also continue dependency if it finds that continued supervision is in the best interest of the youth.

If Court continues dependency past eligibility to AFDC-FC, the SSW may request that placement be financially supported by county funds, using *County Funds Request (F063-25-415)*.

REFERENCES

Hyperlinks

Staff accessing this document by computer may create a direct connection to the following references by clicking on them.

- CFS P&P AFDC-FC (H-0102)

Other Sources

Other printed references include the following:

None.

REQUIRED FORMS

Online Forms

Required forms listed below may be printed out and completed, or completed online, and may be accessed by clicking on the link provided.

Form Name	Form Number
Mutual Agreement for 18 Year Olds	SOC 155B

Hard Copy Forms

Forms listed below must be completed in hard copy (including multi-copy NCR forms). ***For reference purposes only,*** links are provided to view these hard copy forms, where available.

Form Name	Form Number
School Attendance Verification	CSF 37
Placement Acco	F063-25-106
County Funds Request	F063-25-415

CWS/CMS Forms

The following required forms may **only** be obtained in CWS/CMS. ***For reference purposes only,*** links are provided to view these CWS/CMS forms, where available.

Form Name	Form Number
None.	

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Brochures Brochures to distribute in conjunction with this procedure include:

Brochure Name	Brochure Number
None.	

PROCEDURE

Required Actions—17 Year Olds	The following actions must be completed when a dependent receiving AFDC-FC reaches age 17.	
Staff Responsible	**Step**	**Required Action**
Eligibility Technician (ET)	**1.**	Send *School Attendance Verification (CSF 37)* to current caregiver, requesting school verification for the youth in placement.
	2.	If school verification **is returned**, enter information into CalWIN, Display Student Summary screen. Follow up on youth's school status every six months, as appropriate. If school verification **is not returned**, the eligibility case will automatically close in CalWIN on youth's 18th birthday.
Senior Social Worker (SSW)	**3.**	a. Discuss education plans, placement, and dependency options past age 18 with youth and caregiver. b. Sign and obtain signature of youth on *Mutual Agreement for 18 Year Olds (SOC 155B)*, if appropriate, per above policy.
	4.	a. Inform Juvenile Court of youth's educational status and expected completion date, according to school verification. b. Recommend continued dependency, if appropriate.

Required Actions—18 Year Olds	The following actions must be completed for youth continuing AFDC-FC funding after age 18.	
Staff Responsible	**Step**	**Required Action**
Eligibility Technician (ET)	**1.**	Follow up with obtaining school verification every six months until age 19. **If** the youth completes the educational program, terminate AFDC-FC the day prior to completion. **If** found that the youth will not complete his/her school program by age 19, terminate AFDC-FC the day information is received. **If** the youth remains eligible to their 19th birthday, terminate AFDC-FC the day prior to turning 19.

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	2.	**If** educational requirements will not be met prior to age 19, request the SSW submit a completed and approved *County Funds Request (F063-25-415)* to fund the placement.
Senior Social Worker (SSW)	**3.**	Continue case management, Independent Living Program (ILP) coordination, and court reporting responsibilities, per regulations.
	4.	Notify ET if the youth drops out of his/her program.
	5.	a. If needed, complete *County Funds Request* to continue funding the placement past eligibility to AFDC-FC. Use aid code "9X." b. Route for approval as directed on the form. c. Forward approved request to IPT.
Information Processing Technician (IPT)	**6.**	Submit original *County Funds Request* to ET. File copy of form in youth's service file, Placement Acco.
	7.	Update youth's aid code in CWS/CMS to "9X."

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