

YOUTH AGING OUT SURVEY
ISSUE: DRIVER'S LICENSE, INSURANCE AND
OTHER TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION

Does your state have information accessible to youth on driving and other transportation issues?

Arizona

Yes.

Colorado

Yes; 2-1-1 System referrals and websites.

Connecticut

Information about driving, insurance, etc. is provided in their Life Skills curriculum. The DCF also mandates that group home, transitional living independent living case managers along with foster parent IL providers include and update their youth on these matters.

DCF has addressed obtaining a drivers license in its adolescent policy.

Delaware

Youth receive information about the Division of Motor Vehicle (DMV) and Delaware Authority of Regional Transit (DART). Transportation issues are addressed in the youth's Individualized Plan for Independence.

Indiana

Bus passes can be provided and bicycles can be purchased.

Iowa

Youth in care may get a driver's license. It is required that a parent or guardian sign for youth under 18.

Maine

The Answers Handbook, a handbook for youth in foster care provides information to youth about transportation resources in general terms and policies related to obtaining a driver's education and driver's license.

The annual conference for teens in foster care contains this information on workshops that address preparation for adulthood.

Caseworkers are able to arrange transportation for youth through the youth's care provider or placement agency. When these resources are not available contracted transportation services are available through community action programs, regional transportation services and public transportation systems. Maine, a rural state, has few communities with public transportation.

Minnesota

We have two different youth transition web sites in Minnesota that provide youth and youth workers with specific information on transportation issues. Please see the following links:

<http://216.81.233.81/PublicPortal/default.aspx?se=youth>

<http://www.c3online.org/>

Mississippi

Yes.

Missouri

Youth learn about available options from their placement provider and social worker.

Nebraska

Below is a portion of our Independent Living Guidebook that directs case managers on how to work with youth preparing for independent living.

All youth age 16 through 18 regardless of permanency objective will have a Preparation for Independent Living Plan for supporting themselves as an adult. This plan shall include the youth's goals for employment, education, financial support, housing, a support system and transportation arrangements.

Acquisition of Necessary Life Skills: the youth will have necessary life skills in the following areas:

- Locating and maintaining housing;
- Home management (food preparation, cooking, cleaning and laundry);
- Shopping and effectiveness as a consumer;
- Use of community systems and services;
- Health care (personal care, family planning, medical assistance);

The youth will have an enhanced self-identity by understanding her/his own past and having the documents necessary for self-sufficiency as an adult. Options to provide services include:

- Use of a life story book to understand past experiences and strengths, and to improve the youth's sense of control over her/his life; or
- Obtaining of necessary documents such as:
 1. Social Security card;
 2. Birth certificate;
 - 3. Driver's license, or learner's permit, if appropriate;**
 4. School records and diploma or high school equivalency certificate;
 5. Medical records, including immunization record, medical history;
 6. Other documents necessary in the transition to independent living.

An assessment is done at age 18 for all youth in residing in group homes or Agency Supported Foster Care homes that includes the following questions. If the youth answers no to any of the questions and there is a need expressed or observed, the provider is expected to assist the youth in meeting the need. The questions are:

- Do you have an official copy of your birth certificate?
- **Do you have a Driver's License or ID card from the state?**
- Do you know how to get your medical records if you need them?
- Do you know how to get your school records if you need them?
- Did you participate in developing a plan for your transition from foster care?
- Do you have a written plan for your transition from foster care?
- Do you feel safe where you live?
- Do you have at least one adult in the community, other than your caseworker you can go to for guidance and support?
- Do you know where you will live after you leave foster care?
- Do you cook some of your own meals where you live?
- Do you know where to call if you need medical care?
- Do you know where to call if you need dental care?
- Do you know why you would take prescribed medications?
- Do you have any kind of bank account?

- Do you save money on a regular basis?
- Do you have Medicaid or other health insurance?
- Do you have Medicaid or other insurance that pays for part of or all of your prescription drugs?
- Do you do any volunteer work?
- Do you know about the education and training voucher program?
- Are you employed either full-time or part-time?
- Are you going to school or getting vocational training full or part time?
- Do you belong to any foster youth or alumni association?

The assessment also asks them if they would like the contact information of the Foster Care Alumni of America.

New York

The foster care handbook developed in partnership with Youth in Progress briefly addresses the policy on driving a car and insurance. It is up to each of the 58 local departments of social services on whether they will permit a youth in foster care to drive a car.

North Carolina

This is available in all counties through the Department of Motor Vehicles county offices. In addition, high schools provide information and, in some cases, provide driving instruction.

North Dakota

Brochure DN 271 is given to foster parents, who sign a form indicating they have received information related to the department's policy on Motor Vehicle Operation by Youth in Foster Care. Youth are generally provided this information at the time they inquire about getting their drivers license.

Ohio

ODJFS does not have rules which specifically prohibit children from obtaining driver's permits. Normally decisions such as these are made by the local agency and or foster care provider based on the maturity level and circumstances of the child. Liability and risks are great in these circumstances and each child service agency must take this into consideration when making such a decision.

Tennessee

The state of Tennessee is in an investigative phase of the impact of liability laws on our youth in state care. The Tennessee Department of Transportation has online access through its website outlining the requirements of obtaining driver's licenses.

Virginia

No. The local departments of social services provide this information as needed.

Washington

Foster youth can only get a driver's license if a parent/guardian signs or the youth obtains a court order. Social workers do not have authority to sign for foster youth to get a driving permit.

Foster youth can be given bus passes to use to go to school, work, any programs they are involved with such as Independent Living program, etc provided they have the know how and ability to do it.

Children's Administration in collaboration with the Foster Care to College partnership will address transportation issues on the new website which is being launched July 2007.

What resources does your state provide to assist youth in obtaining a driver's license?

Arizona

Youth may receive financial assistance associated with the cost of driver's education, training and license fees.

Colorado

Youth have the possibility with County authorization and Guardian Ad Litem (GAL) approval to obtain a driver license as part of their emancipation plan on a case-by-case basis

Connecticut

DCF also pays 50% of driver's education programming for youth who can provide the other half of the cost. Some of our community based life skills providers and mentoring programs offer 100% payment of driver's education if youth complete their programs.

Delaware

Former foster youth receive help with fees associated with taking Driver's Test; and transportation to DMV. Some youth complete Driver's Ed through schools. Currently, youth in care cannot get a driver's license; however, discussions to allow youth to obtain their license are underway.

Indiana

Indiana will allow youth to take driver's education and pay for the course for the youth.

Iowa

Youth in care are assisted by their foster parent or other service provider. Those who have aged out of foster care and are involved with the Iowa Aftercare Services Network have the assistance of a Self-Sufficiency Advocate, who works one on one with the young person to learn life skills and access resources at agencies such as the Iowa Department of Transportation.

Maine

Obtaining a driver's permit and license is considered a privilege for older youth in care and is part of their personal growth and acceptance of responsibility for taking care of their own needs. The Department of Human Services recognizes the importance of completing a driver's education course and obtaining a driver's license for older youth in care. Completing driver's education is necessary to develop the safe driving skills needed to obtain a driver's license. Access to education, employment, health care, and other community based activities for older youth in care is dependent on access to transportation.

The process of driver's education and licensing for Maine youth in care should be a collaborative effort between the youth, caseworker, foster parents, group home staff, and birth parent(s), if appropriate. Clear and consistent policy and procedures will enable caseworkers and care providers across the state to guide youth through this important life skills acquisition and better prepare youth for integrating into their community. This is particularly important in light of the additional challenges and complications arising from a youth having the state as legal guardian.

The Department of Human Services may cover the total cost for driver's education. However, if the youth has part-time employment, or is willing or able to work, they may be expected to pay for a fairly negotiated portion of the cost of their driver's education course. However, lack of funds for driver's education should not be a barrier to acquiring this important life skill.

The Department may approve the following individuals to assist the youth with meeting the required 35 practice driving hours. All individuals assisting the youth with their practice driving hours must be insured to the minimum liability, or other coverage limits required by the law as verified by the youth's caseworker. These individuals can be:

- Caseworkers;
- Foster parents;
- Group home staff;
- Agency approved mentors;
- Employers;
- Birth parents, if appropriate; and
- Other responsible licensed drivers.

Minnesota

The state funds 25 community agencies to help youth achieve transition milestones. The completion of drivers training and receiving a drivers permit and/or license is a reimbursable event for a grantee. Grantee agencies have a fiscal incentive to help youth achieve these milestones.

Mississippi

The Resource parents (foster or adoptive), group home administrator who has responsibility of the youth in care, a court-appointed guardian, an employer of the youth in care or, if there is no guardian or employer, any other responsible person who is willing to assume the financial obligation (liability) imposed under Miss. Code 63-1-25, may choose to sign the application for a youth, unless restricted by a court order, who is at least age 16, to obtain a driver's license.

All drivers are required to be covered by liability insurance. However, if a car accident is caused because the youth-in-care was negligent or engaged in willful misconduct, and the damages suffered by passengers in his vehicle or in another vehicle are higher than the policy limits on the insurance coverage, the foster parent or other adult who signed the driver's license application will be liable for whatever the liability insurance does not pay. The young driver's negligence or willful misconduct is imputed to the adult who signed the young person's application for a license without any need to prove that the adult was negligent in supervising the youth in care. This is the obligation (potential liability) imposed under Miss. Code 63-1-25. A youth who is 17 years of age or older may sign a license application without an adult's signature, but may not drive until he is covered by liability insurance.

Missouri

Youth are provided information about available Chafee services by the Older Youth Transition Specialists and case managers. Services are to be used to assist youth in complementing their own efforts to achieve self-sufficiency and to assure they recognize and accept personal responsibility in preparation for and the successful transition from adolescence to adulthood. Financial assistance for driver's education classes can be provided.

Nebraska

Nebraska Health and Human Services policy (NAC 390, 11-002.01-F, DRIVER'S LICENSE) states:

“The worker, with consent of the parent and caregiver, may allow the child to obtain a license or permit. Driving is a privilege earned through showing responsibility. The ward must complete a driver's education course before taking the driver's examination. If a driver's education course is unavailable, this requirement may be waived. A condition of parole for children committed to HHS-OJS (Office of Juvenile Services which serves youth adjudicated as delinquent) is that the child not operate or purchase any motor vehicle without written permission of the worker. If the child owns a vehicle before being on

parole, the child cannot operate it without permission of the worker. Nebraska can pay for drivers training classes giving youth the skills and knowledge they need to pass their Drivers License test.”

New York

Chafee funds may be used by counties if they choose to use these funds for car insurance and other costs associated with driving a car. Individual counties or foster parents may provide resources to assist youth in obtaining a driver’s license.

North Carolina

This varies by county. Some counties are very active in helping youth get their license, and others are not. LINKS funds can be used to help with the cost of driving lessons, car insurance for young adults, etc. Most directors will not sign for youth under the age of 18 to get their licenses. Some providers, both foster and group home, will sign for youth to get their license.

North Dakota

The Department is not able to authorize a minor to secure a driver’s license. NDCC Section 39-06-08 sets out the conditions under which an application for an operator’s license on behalf of a minor can be made. It provides as follows: “The application of any minor for an instruction permit or operator’s license must be signed and verified before a person authorized to administer oaths or the director’s agent, by the father, mother, or legal guardian, or, in the event there is no parent or legal guardian, then by another responsible adult who is willing to assume obligation imposed under this chapter upon a person signing the application of a minor.” Thus, in the event there is no parent or guardian having legal custody of the child and willing to assume responsibility on behalf of the child, another responsible adult, e.g., a foster parent, could sign the application and, in so doing, assume the obligation imposed under Chapter 39-06, NDCC.

The foster youth must provide proof of financial responsibility, or furnish proof that the parent, guardian, or foster parent signing the drivers license or permit application, have proof of financial responsibility which ensures against the negligent operation of the motor vehicle by the minor in an amount required under the financial responsibility laws of this state. The custodian must also consent to the foster youth getting a driver’s license or permit. Many fees related to driver’s education are paid by the education system. If the school does not offer drivers education, the foster care system will pay for the cost through “irregular payments”. Irregular payments can also be accessed for the cost of the license itself. Chafee funding can be used to pay for approved driving related expenses as well.

Ohio

The TANF IL funds can be considered when assisting youth obtaining a driver’s license once the youth has emancipated. PCSAs may also use the use of additional federal funding through TANF to support the provision of independent living services to youth in their custody under the age of 16 when the youth is likely to remain in agency custody until the youth’s eighteenth birthday. An allowable expense through TANF for youth that have aged out of care is Driver’s education classes and driver’s license fees. Again, liability and risk are considered when making a decision.

Tennessee

Through Chafee funding, the Office of Interdependent Living can provide payment for driver’s education courses, where they are not offered in the local school systems. However, changes in liability and insurance laws in this state have significantly impacted our youth’s ability to obtain licenses.

Virginia

The local departments of social services provide this information and funding as needed.

Washington

Youth can obtain funding (if and when available through the local IL program and or local DSHS office) to attend driver education programs throughout the state in order to get acquainted with driving and the rules/regulations within Washington.

Transitional Living funds may be accessible to assist with car insurance if the youth needs a car for work or other valid reason.

Education and Training Voucher Program can also provide assistance with car insurance if the youth needs a vehicle to get to/from post secondary program.

What information is available – and how – to youth on public transportation in your state?

Arizona

Youth residing in areas with access to public transportation receive this information through case managers, caregivers, independent living skills trainers, educators and other supportive adults, i.e. Court Appointed Special Advocates, Mentors, etc.

Information available includes the types of public transportation available, transportation schedules, fees, etc. Youth may also receive bus passes, bus cards and/or cab vouchers to support various case plan objectives.

Colorado

In Colorado public transportation is primarily in the Denver Metro and Colorado Springs metropolitan areas...Colorado's 2-1-1 services referral system, on-line websites for bus services/metro light rail and by word of mouth are how youth primarily access information on available services

Connecticut

Life Skills Programs address public transportation

Many youth receive bus passes as part of their programming or contracts and in those cases the social worker or case manager will work with the youth to negotiate public transportation.

Delaware

IL case managers ensure youth are knowledgeable of bus routes, fees, etc. DART information can also be accessed via internet.

Indiana

The majority of contracted service agencies provide youth with bus schedules. They are also readily available in many of the high schools.

Iowa

Youth in care are assisted by their foster parent or other service provider. Those who have aged out of foster care and are involved with the Iowa Aftercare Services Network have the assistance of a Self-Sufficiency Advocate, who works one-on-one with the young person to learn life skills and access resources at agencies such as the Iowa Department of Transportation.

The Department of Human Services Case Managers may provide bus tokens for short periods of time and depending on the circumstances.

Maine

Caseworkers are able to provide information about public transportation systems. Maine, a rural state, has few communities with public transportation.

Minnesota

See below link for a transportation brief from the Community Transportation Association regarding youth in Minnesota.

<http://www.deed.state.mn.us/youth/SYV/mnyouthtransprog.pdf>

Mississippi

Youth have the opportunity to access the Mississippi Department of Transportation information in a variety of ways. Youth living in foster homes, emergency shelters, group homes, relative placements, residential treatment centers, and therapeutic group homes are sent information on various services available to youth. All of the resources mentioned above have access to public transportation information appropriate to their local community.

Missouri

Youth learn about available options from their placement provider, case manager, or through independent living classes. If youth need transportation to a service that is a Medicaid eligible service, they can utilize their Managed Care provider by a number on the back of their member card.

Nebraska

In larger cities in Nebraska where public transportation is available it is the primary source of transportation for work and school related activities. Information (schedules and fares) is provided through providers of foster care and group care as well as through our PALS and Transitional Living Programs.

New York

This would vary from district to district. Local districts are required to provide foster care youth with life skills training which includes training on using public transportation. Transportation is addressed in the training available to staff on adolescent issues.

North Carolina

County LINKS programs provide information, experience, and access to public transportation in those areas in which it is available. Some counties that do not have public transportation conduct field trips in larger cities and include public transit as part of the experience.

North Dakota

On an as needed basis.

Ohio

Youth are encouraged to learn the public transportation system prior to aging out of care. They may be provided with bus schedules, and other resources to assist.

Tennessee

Although much of Tennessee is rural, there are several larger municipalities that offer public transportation. These systems are not connected and youth are assisted with pertinent information via their family services worker and Interdependent living specialist.

Virginia

The local departments of social services provide this information as needed.

Washington

The Independent Living and Transitional Living programs work with foster youth to inform them of public transportation and can provide assistance with transportation costs if approved and funds are available.

Education and Training Voucher Program can also provide assistance with transportation costs for youth to get to/from post secondary program.

Children's Administration in collaboration with the Foster Care to College partnership will include information on transportation issues on the new website which is being launched July 2007.

Name and contact information of state individual regarding license and transportation issues?

Arizona

DES/DCYF Independent Living Coordinator
Beverlee Kroll
bkroll@azdes.gov
(480) 545-1901 ext. 15886

Colorado

Bob Coulson
Adolescent Services Administrator
(303) 866-4706

Connecticut

Frank Martin
(860) 550-6592

Delaware

Truman Bolden, Independent Living Program Manager;
(302) 633-2638
truman.bolden@state.de.us

Indiana

Cassandra Porter
(317) 234-4211

Iowa

The department of transportation is primarily responsible for transportation issues, however, Mrs. Miller may be able to assist when it pertains to youth in transition.

Holli Miller
Independent Living Coordinator
1305 E. Walnut
Des Moines, Iowa 50319
(515) 281-6786

Maine

Virginia Marriner
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Minnesota

Steve Vonderharr
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Mississippi

For the Department of Human Services/ Division of Family and Children's Services, Independent Living Program please contact:

Sergio A. Trejo, Program Administrator, Sr.
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State Independent Living Coordinator
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Missouri

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Missouri Children's Division
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Nebraska

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Ohio

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Virginia

Letha Moore-Jones
Independent Living Program Supervisor & Coordinator

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Washington

For information regarding Washington State's Independent Living and Transitional Living programs:

Rick Butt
Independent Living Program Manager
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rlbu300@dshs.wa.gov

For general information regarding driver's license and transportation issues:

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