



Memorandum

To: Child Welfare Staff

From: Mary Havick, Deputy Division Director of Child Welfare

Date: August 14, 2020

Re: Temporary Extension of the Allowable Age of Youth Receiving Extended Youth Services – Extended Until December 2020

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Governor Kemp issued an Executive Order allowing youth in our care who turn 21 years old to remain in their placement and continue to receive services for 90 days following the termination of the Public Health State of Emergency or any extension of it. The most recent extension of the Public Health State of Emergency occurred on August 7, 2020. It was extended through September 10, 2020, meaning **youth who are over the age of 21 may remain in care until December 10, 2020.**

In addition, the education and work requirements that became effective July 1, 2020, for youth over 18 years old, have been waived during this period. Any failure to meet those requirements will not provide cause for an involuntary discharge. **Until further notice, we should not request a youth be involuntarily discharged from the EYSS program, deny a youth's request to reenter into care, or discharge them if they do not have a sustainable transition plan in place with the necessary resources for transition.** In circumstances where youth have a sustainable transition plan and necessary resources to support it, you may proceed in supporting their transition into independence.

The GA RYSE/Chafee State Independent Living Program (ILP) remains available to partner with county offices, provide technical assistance and review and approve any requests to discharge or deny reentry to youth consistent. If you have any questions, please contact your GA RYSE ILP Independent Living Program Specialist or email AskILP@dhs.ga.gov.