



GEORGIA DIVISION OF FAMILY AND CHILDREN SERVICES EXTENDED YOUTH SUPPORT SERVICES (EYSS) INFORMATION & OVERVIEW

Extended Youth Support Services Overview

Once a youth in foster care in Georgia turns 18 years old, they have the option to continue to receive foster care assistance by participating in the Extended Youth Support Services Program (EYSS). EYSS is not traditional foster care. It is a voluntary agreement between you and DFCS that allows you to continue to receive foster care services between the ages of 18-21. While you are legally considered an adult, the EYSS program is available to provide you with additional assistance as you transition to independence. The benefits of the EYSS program affords you with the opportunity to practice the independent living skills you have learned while still having support services available if/when mistakes occur. The goal of the EYSS program is that when you fully transition from EYSS you will be better able to fully support yourself and maintain your independence long after reaching the age of 21.

With your full participation, your Written Transitional Living Plan (WTLP) will continue and be enhanced to incorporate developmentally appropriate services needed or requested, as well as a Graduated Independence Plan based on your individual circumstances. As a participant in the EYSS program, you will continue to live in a foster home, group home, independent living housing program or college housing setting as applicable.

Your Responsibilities as an Adult and EYSS Program Participant

If you elect to participate in the EYSS program, you must comply with the rules of your placement setting whether it is a foster home, group home, independent living housing program, or college housing setting. If your placements disrupt due to your own purposeful noncompliance with rules, you may be discharged from the EYSS program.

You are required to work with your Social Services Case Manager and/or Independent Living Specialist and placement resource or provider to update your WTLP goals as much as may be needed, but at least every 6 months; and actively participate in accomplishing your WTLP goals. You will also be required to participate in monthly contacts with your Social Services Case Manager and/or Independent Living Specialist to monitor you and your progress throughout your participation in the EYSS program. The overall goal of EYSS is to assist you with accomplishing your goals related to independence and transition you successfully into adulthood.

Note that electing to participate in the EYSS program does not relieve you of your responsibilities as an adult. In Georgia, the age of majority (when you are legally considered an adult) is 18 years old. This means that for legal purposes, you are held accountable for your actions, legally, contractually and financially, etc. Participating in the EYSS program does not change this fact. Additionally, you are fully responsible for all acts and omissions related to driving a motorized vehicle and any and all liability resulting thereof. You are also fully responsible for any and all actions that you take in exercising your rights as a consumer.

DFCS Responsibilities For Monitoring and Developing Participants in the EYSS Program

Your DFCS Social Services Case Manager (SSCM) and Independent Living Specialist (ILS) will continue to provide the placement and support services stated in your Case Plan and WTLP until such time that you decide to opt out of the EYSS program or reach the age of 21. DFCS will continue to meet with you at least monthly, include you in ILP activities, and inform you of any benefits or programs that may assist you in achieving your WTLP goals. DFCS will assist you with updating your WTLP as much as may be needed, but at least every six (6) months.

Your SSCM and/or ILS will also work with you on developing how and when you will be contacted each month for the purpose of monitoring you and your progress toward independence. Contacts will be based on your individual circumstances and may be changed by DFCS at any time based on your progress and recommendations from your placement resource or provider.

DFCS will notify you of the decision to approve or disapprove any EYSS request for services **within 30 calendar days of the request**. If the decision is to disapprove, the State ILP Manager will review the request and make a final determination.

Involuntary Discharge from the EYSS Program or Youth Voluntarily Opt Out of the EYSS Program

It is understood that you may be involuntarily discharged from participation in the EYSS program by DFCS after a thorough review of your circumstances and with a 30-day notice that you are being discharged from the EYSS program. It is also understood that you may voluntarily opt out of participation in the EYSS program at any time with a 30-day notice of your intent to opt out of the EYSS program. Your voluntary notice to opt out of the EYSS program will be provided by the completion and submission of the Notice to Opt out of the Extended Youth Support Services (EYSS) Form.