



CALIFORNIA FOSTERING CONNECTIONS TO SUCCESS ACT

Assembly Bill 12 – (AB 12) Extended Foster Care

Adopted in 2010, the California Fostering Connections to Success Act, also known as AB12, extends the foster care age in California from 18 to 21 years old.

Who does AB 12 apply to?

DCFS foster youth may be eligible for extended foster care on their 18th birthday, allowing them continued access to services and benefits DCFS and Probation offers, including assistance with housing, college or vocational education, emergency financial support and career development programs. Youth may exit foster care at any time after reaching 18 and re-enter before the age of 21.

Who is eligible?

At the six-month hearing prior to turning 18 years old, the DCFS social worker/probation officer must have a plan in place to ensure youth meet at least ONE of the following criteria:

1. Completing high school or an equivalent program (i.e., GED)
2. Enrolling in a college, community college or vocational education program
3. Employed at least 80 hours a month
4. Participating in a program designed to promote or remove barriers to employment
5. Unable to do any of the above requirements because of a medical condition

Eligible youth must also:

1. Be in an approved home placement
2. Meet with their social worker or probation officer at least once a month
3. Sign an agreement to participate in the set case plan
4. Agree to continued court supervision



What are the Options for Housing?

There are multiple placement options available:

1. Youth can remain in the existing home with either a relative or non-related extended family member-(NREFM) licensed foster family home, certified foster family agency home, or the home of a non-related legal guardian who has been approved by the juvenile court.
2. Youth may be eligible for a transitional housing program which will provide them with an opportunity to live in an apartment in the community while getting support from a team of individuals who will assist them with their independent living skills goals. They will learn the skills to become self-sufficient by the time they complete this program.
3. If youth are living with a relative under KinGap or the Adoption Assistance Program (AAP), they will be eligible for extended care under AB12. If the guardianship was established when they were 16 or older, the relative caregiver will receive the same payment until the youth is 21 years of age. Youth with mental or physical disabilities are eligible for extended care under AB12, regardless of when they entered KinGAP.
4. Youth may also be able to stay with a group home or short term residential therapeutic program placement if the medical condition criteria is met.
5. Another option is the Supervised Independent Living Program. Eligible youth must pass a readiness assessment and find their own place to live (which can include a college dorm, apartment or room to rent).

What if a Youth has already left Foster Care and doesn't have a social worker anymore?

You must be under the age of 21 to re-enter foster care under AB 12. Please contact DCFS or Probation at one of the following numbers. Additional information can be found at

www.dcfslacounty.gov.

- DCFS: Call the Child Protection Hotline at 1-800-540-4000 and select the child / youth option.
- Probation: Call 909-347-9128 or send an email to probab12@probation.lacounty.gov.