

Definitions

Case Plan: a contract that is negotiated between parents, youth, attorneys and the agency that outlines tasks. This must be filed and approved by the court.

Foster Care: a living arrangement in which a child has been removed from the home, is adjudicated dependent and is placed in a licensed setting (this may be a family foster home, group home or a residential placement).

Guardian ad Litem: a court appointed advocate that represents a child's best interests.

Out of Home Care: a legal status. Takes the place of living with your parents.

Permanency placement: may include being reunified with parent, adoption, guardianship to a relative or non-relative placement or another planned living arrangement,

Shelter Care: a living arrangement in which a child has been removed from the home and placed with a relative, non-relative or in a licensed placement. This is meant to be short term.

Siblings: term used to describe your brother(s) and/or sister(s).

Independent Living Services

- All youth, no matter what the goals are for placement, must be prepared to live independently.
- All youth, age 13-17 yrs old, are referred to the Independent Living Program.
- An assessment will be completed to determine strengths & weaknesses as they relate to preparing for adulthood.
- You will receive a newsletter & encouraged to attend monthly skills trainings & other special events offered throughout the year.

For details, speak to your case worker or Independent Living Coordinator.

Escambia.....437-8972
Santa Rosa437-8973
Okaloosa/Walton833-3788

Monthly Allowance

	AGE	
	13 & 14	15, 16 & 17
Allowance	\$15	\$21
Incidentals	\$10	\$15
Clothing	\$50	\$72

Allowance: money used for your personal use. You may chose to spend it or save it.

Incidentals: money for any special item you may need. Examples: special school supplies & special hair products.

Clothing: money to be spent on clothing and/or shoes.

The Foster Care Guide: An Overview for Teens

Your safety, permanency and well-being are of great importance to us. This pamphlet was created to inform you of some goals and expectations of you and the agency while you are in the legal custody of the State of Florida as outlined in Florida Statute 39.4085 . If you have questions about this pamphlet or your stay in foster care, ask your Family Services Counselor.

Why Am I in Foster Care?

Florida law states that you are to be protected from abuse, neglect and abandonment.

Someone felt that you were in danger. A report was called into the Florida Abuse Hotline (1-800-96A-BUSE). An investigation was completed and it was determined it was not safe for you to remain in the home.

The Judge has ordered you to be out of the home and your parents have been ordered by the court to complete tasks and to work on the problems that brought you into the foster care system.

Goals and Expectations of Youth

- Tell your case worker & foster parents when something is bothering you.
- Attend school. Ask for help if you are in need of tutoring from the teacher, foster parent or case worker.
- Follow rules of the home you are living in.
- Complete case plan tasks; ask for assistance if you need help in getting tasks done.

Sponsored by:

FamiliesFirst Network
of Lakeview

 BAPTIST HEALTH CARE



Goals and Expectations of Our Agency

To receive a copy of this act and have it fully explained.

An adult who is working with you will provide you a copy of this pamphlet and explain it to you in words that you will understand.

To enjoy individual dignity, liberty, pursuit of happiness and protection of civil and legal rights as a person in the custody of the state.

You will be treated fairly. You will have the same rights that you had when you lived with your parents.

To have your privacy protected. To have ALL your personal belongings secured and transported with you when you are moved. To have private conversations with your Family Services Counselor, lawyer and a Guardian ad Litem, without anyone else listening. To have reasonable telephone privileges.

You shall be able to speak with your friends on the phone, provided you have the privilege to do so (i.e. not in trouble, on restriction or otherwise being disruptive in the home). When you request to speak privately with one of the above adults, the request shall be honored.

To have regular visitation with your case worker.

Your case worker shall visit with you at least every 30 days.

To have screenings for risk, health, education, medical and psychological needs. To be referred to and receive services as soon as possible after needs have been identified.

You will be offered services depending on your needs. Services may include: doctor appointments, dental appointments, education meetings, counseling, specialized medical services and/or developmental services.

To be placed in a safe home setting that can best meet your emotional and physical needs. To be placed with no more than one other child, unless they are a part of a sibling group; to be placed with your siblings whenever possible.

Every effort will be made to place you into a home that will keep you safe and healthy. Every step possible will be made to keep you and your siblings in a placement together; sometimes this is not possible.

To negotiate a “normalcy plan” with your case worker and foster parent.

You shall enter into an agreement with your case worker and foster parent to establish expectations of you and your foster parent (ex: curfew, chores, house rules, etc..)

To actively participate in the case planning process.

You and your Family Services Counselor will work together to develop tasks in a case plan for you to complete. These tasks may include attending school, participating in Independent Living trainings, completing chores, attending counseling, etc.

To quickly identify a permanent placement that will best meet your needs. To receive honest information regarding all decisions affecting you. To know what is going on with the case and your life.

Your case worker will work with you, your parents, foster parents, and the legal system to find a permanent placement for you; this placement might be with your parent(s), relative, foster home, non-relative, adoptive home or even a home when you turn 18. You will be informed of any changes to the case if it affects your well-being, placement or status while you are in your out of home care placement.

To receive a free and appropriate education, with minimal disruption to education and retention from “home” school.

Every effort shall be made to place you in the same school zone you have been attending. Any special school services you were receiving shall continue to be provided.

To be heard by the court at all review hearings. You have the right to have a Guardian ad Litem appointed.

You may attend court, if appropriate. You have the right to request the appointment of a Guardian ad Litem.

To have regular visits with birth parents (at least monthly), siblings (at least weekly), and others with whom you have a meaningful positive relationship, unless the court orders otherwise.

You and your counselor will develop visitation plans.

To be able to raise grievances with the department over the care you are receiving from your caregivers, case worker or others.

If you feel that you are not receiving adequate or appropriate care, you may file a complaint. It is encouraged that you need to go through the “chain of command” – if it is your case worker, speak to his/her supervisor, if it is your caregiver, inform your case worker.

To be prepared for the removal from your foster home or alternative placement.

Your case worker and/or caregiver should tell you ahead of time that you will be moved and **why** you are being moved.