



April 28, 2020

To: Child Welfare Staff, Group Home, CPA and Foster Parents

From: Dawn Barton, Permanency Management Director

Subject: Voluntary Placement for former foster youth ages 18- 21

The purpose of this memo is to describe the efforts that SCDSS are taking to ensure the safety, well-being, and permanency of our older youth population continues during the CV19 pandemic.

Former foster youth who reached age of majority while in DSS custody and have not turned age 21:

Any youth who has reached age of majority while in DSS custody is already eligible to remain in DSS licensed placement until turning the age 21. During the CV19 pandemic, the agency is temporarily waving the requirement of education enrollment and employment. Youth must sign the Voluntary Placement Agreement and agree to abide by DSS policy concerning cooperation, behavior, and safety; in exchange, the agency will provide case management and board payment to the licensed placement.

Former foster youth who have reached age 21 while enrolled in Voluntary Placement:

Any youth who has reached age of majority while in DSS custody is already eligible to remain in DSS licensed placement until turning the age 21. During the CV19 pandemic, any youth who reach age 21 and is currently in a SCDSS licensed placement will be allowed to temporarily remain during the duration of the pandemic. During the CV19 pandemic, the agency is temporarily suspending the maximum age of 21, the requirement of education enrollment, and employment. Youth must sign the Voluntary Placement Agreement on their 21st birthday and agree to abide by DSS policy concerning cooperation, behavior, and safety; in exchange, the agency will provide board payment to the licensed placement and case management.

The agency will continue to provide case management to the young adult and prepare the young adult for transition into adulthood after the CV19 pandemic has ceased. Case management will assess the young adult's needs, community connection, employability, academic goals, and

financials to ensure safety and stability. Case management will make every reasonable effort to support the young adult transitioning into adulthood. If you have any questions or concerns please contact our Chafee Team at independentliving@dss.sc.gov .

Thank You,

Dawn T. Barton

Dawn T. Barton, Director

Permanency Management

SC Department of Social Services