

If I'm Living with my Parent When I Turn 18, Can I Still Get Aged Out Foster Youth Benefits?

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As long as you are still under the “conservatorship” of CPS when you turn 18, you can qualify for aged out foster youth benefits even if you are placed with or staying with a parent or guardian. You will still have to meet the other requirements of each particular benefit.



Conservatorship means that there is a court order saying CPS is in charge of you.

In September of 2014, CPS starting using a new rule: aged out foster youth who lived with a parent when they turned 18 were no longer eligible to receive most aged out foster youth benefits. **CPS has now gotten rid of that that rule.** So an aged foster youth cannot be disqualified from benefits just because they lived with a parent when they turned 18!

If your benefits were cut off because you were living with a parent at age 18, CPS is supposed to give you all your benefits back. If you have NOT gotten your benefits back yet, contact your PAL worker and After Care Case manager to get back on.

If you have trouble getting your benefits back, or if you don't know who to call or go see, you can contact the Texas Foster Youth Justice Project toll free at 877-313-3688 or info@texasfosteryouth.org.

Benefits for aged out foster youth include:

- 1) Transitional Living Allowance - up to \$1000 to help with transition from foster care to adulthood
- 2) After Care Room and Board - up to \$500/ month not to exceed \$3000 (based on need/emergency)
- 3) After Care Case management
- 4) Education and Training Voucher (ETV) - up to \$5000/ year for education related expenses
- 5) Former Foster Care Children's (FFCC) Medicaid
- 6) Tuition waiver

You may have to meet additional requirements for each specific benefit or service. You can find more information about these benefits at texasfosteryouth.org.

My PAL worker says I still can't get Aftercare Room and Board? WHY??

If you age out of foster care while you live with your parent, you will not be able to receive Aftercare Room and Board funds while you live with your parent. Once you no longer live with your parent you may be able to be able to get Aftercare Room and Board benefits to help cover food and shelter expenses such as rent, deposits, and utilities.

What if the CPS Court Gives My Parent Conservatorship of Me Again?

The decision about whether CPS keeps conservatorship of you after you have been placed with your parent is up to the court that oversees your CPS case.

Depending on when you are placed with your parent and how things are going, the Court may decide to transfer conservatorship to your parent after you have lived with them successfully for a period of time. *Transferring Conservatorship means that CPS will no longer be in charge of you, you will no longer have a caseworker and the court will no longer oversee your case.* The Court will consider what CPS thinks about it, as well as your CASA, you, and your Attorney and Guardian ad Litem if you have them.

If the court does transfer conservatorship to your parent before you turn 18, then you will NOT be considered to have aged out of foster care and you will NOT qualify for most after care benefits.

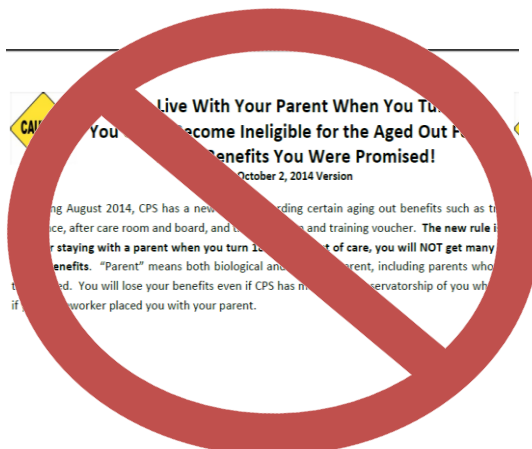
Before deciding what you think about living long term with your parent or anyone else, you should ask for written information from your Preparation for Adult Living (PAL) worker about what benefits you will be able to receive if your conservatorship is transferred to that person before you turn 18. You should share this information with everyone involved in your case, and you should tell everyone how you feel about CPS transferring conservatorship.

If you have concerns that things won't work out well with your parent, it is important that you understand what other sources of help will be available to you. You can contact the Texas Foster Youth Justice Project at 877-313-3688 or info@texasfosteryouth.org if you need guidance or more information about this.

The following materials that you may have received from us are NO LONGER ACCURATE:

- *Foster Youth Living with a Parent When Aging Out Will Now Be Considered Ineligible for Most Transitional Benefits* (October 2, 2014)
- *If You Live With Your Parent When You Turn 18, You Could Become Ineligible for the Aged Out Foster Youth Benefits You Were Promised!* (October 2, 2014)

These documents should be discarded.



The Texas Foster Youth Justice Project provides free legal advice and assistance to current and former foster youth and to those who work with them. You can find out more about us at texasfosteryouth.org and can contact us toll free at **877-313-3688** or info@texasfosteryouth.org.

For more detailed information on this topic, visit the [Aging Out section](#) at texasfosteryouth.org.

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