Help! I need an ID
TNOYS Annual Conference
Prince Hayward
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Texas Foster Youth Justice Project
Educating foster youth about their legal rights

Hotline: (877) 313-3688
Email: info@texasfosteryouth.org
Website: www.texasfosteryouth.org

Statewide program
Assists current and former foster youth with legal problems
Assists groups of current and former foster youth with legal problems
Provides guidance for those that work with current and former foster youth
Assists homeless, unaccompanied youth with legal problems
Project Staff

- Mary Christine Reed
  Project Director, Attorney (Austin)

- Sarah Worthington
  Attorney (San Antonio)

- Gabrielle Marshall
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- Eden Klein
  Attorney (El Paso)

- Karen Gilbert
  Legal Assistant (Austin)
The Texas Foster Youth Justice Project helps current and former foster youth in Texas. We help foster youth understand their legal rights. We provide legal advice, assistance, guidance, and representation in asserting foster youth rights. We also educate the general public about the legal needs and rights of foster youth.

Free Legal Help for Current & Former Foster Youth
1-877-313-3688

www.texasfosteryouth.org
TFYJP: A Guide for Those “Aging Out” of Foster Care in Texas

7th edition (2019)

Download for free at
www.texasfosteryouth.org

Order bound copies for free by emailing
info@texasfosteryouth.org
Texas Foster Youth Justice Project (TFYJP): Common Project Cases

CPS records
Extended Foster Care/ Return to Foster Care/ Supervised Independent Living
Representation in CPS court
Healthcare issues
Access to transition services
Education issues

Juvenile/criminal records
Name change/correction
Identity documents
Foster youth benefits
Immigration/Citizenship
Contact with/access to siblings
General advocacy
Handouts on Whova App

How Homeless and Unaccompanied Youth Can Get Their Texas Birth Certificate and Texas ID Card and Texas Driver’s License (English and Spanish versions)

How Foster Youth Can Get Their Texas Birth Certificate and Texas ID Card and Texas Driver’s License (English and Spanish versions)

More Materials and Handouts for Help I Need and ID! (document with link to Dropbox folder with additional materials including PowerPoint Slides)

PowerPoint Slides and document with link to Dropbox folder also on TexasFosterYouth.org on Identification Documents page
Materials
Youth Experiencing Homelessness

How Homeless and Unaccompanied Youth Can Get Their Texas Birth Certificate and Texas ID Card and Texas Driver’s License (English and Spanish versions)

Certification of Homeless Status Form for Texas Birth Certificate and Texas Identification Card and Driver’s License (Microsoft Word and Adobe PDF)

DPS Homeless Youth Driver License Fact Sheet

DPS Homeless Youth ID Fact Sheet
How Foster Youth Can Get Their Texas Birth Certificate and Texas ID Card and Texas Driver’s License (English and Spanish versions)

DFPS Foster Care Residency Verification Form K-908-2042

DPS Foster Youth Driver License Fact Sheet

DPS Foster Youth ID Fact Sheet
General Materials

- DPS What it Takes to Apply DL-57 for ID/License brochure
- DPS License and ID Applications DL-14A (Minor) and DL-14B (Adult)
- HB 123 (2019 ID Docs Law)
- SB 2054 (2021 Fees Driver Ed Courses and Exams)
Why Do Youth Need Identification Documents?
Why Do Youth Need Identification Documents?

- Employment
- Housing
- Bank account
- Public benefits
- Airport
- Police
- To Drive
- Financial Aid
- College Enrollment
- GED
- Vote
- Library
- Pawn Shop
- Gym Membership
- Entry Into Building
- Obtain Other Identification Documents
- To Function in Our Society
- . . .
Why Do Youth Need Identification Documents?

- If you start process to obtain documents pre-16, you can identify problems before they become huge barriers
- Original, certified copies (not photocopies)
- Track down birth certificate
- Delays in ordering/obtaining original/certified documents
- Visits to Social Security and DPS office-pandemic closure/delay
- Time Consuming Process
Why Do Youth Need Identification Documents?

Name Issues

- Failure to update birth certificate and Social Security card post paternity/OAG order or post adoption (failed adoption)
- Incorrect name on birth certificate (e.g., “Infant Smith”)
- Variations of name used throughout child’s life
- Locating court orders proving name change
Identification Document Basics

- Need original/certified documents
- Make paper and electronic copies of front and back for records of youth/others
- Youth store documents in secure place
  - ID/License is the only document that youth carries around
  - Access when needed
- Proper care of identification documents is a life skill
  - Ongoing coaching
- Advocate assistance required for success in gathering required documentation to obtain identification documents
Identification Document Basics
Youth Born in Another Country

No U.S. birth certificate showing youth was born in a U.S. state, must assume not a citizen unless there is other certified documentation of citizenship.

Must sort out whether they have some sort of legal status in the U.S. and obtain documentation of their status, if any. No immigration status or proof of it—no Texas ID/License.

Consult immigration specialist for possible forms of relief.

TFYJP: possible assistance if youth has status but needs assistance in obtaining proof.
By age of 16, the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) must provide youth with original or certified copies of:

- Birth Certificate
- Social Security Card
- Texas Driver’s License or Identification Card

Tex. Fam. Code § 264.121(e), (e-1)
DFPS must designate PAL staff as contact person to assist youth who has not received document by 16

Youth must be given contact information of the contact

Youth who misplace documents should receive assistance in obtaining a replacement or information about obtaining duplicate copy as appropriate

Tex. Fam. Code § 264.121(e)
When youth discharged from foster care and is 18+ or emancipated, must provide copy and certified copy/original (unless youth already has):

- Birth Certificate, ID Card or License, Social Security Card
- Immunization records and Information in Health Passport
- Medicaid proof of enrollment

Tex. Fam. Code § 264.121(e-1)
DFPS and CASA “shall develop procedures to ensure that a foster child obtains a driver’s license or personal identification card before the child leaves the conservatorship of the department”

Tex. Fam. Code § 264.1213
Attorney Ad Litem AND Guardian Ad Litem (CASA) are required to make sure youth 16+ has:

- Birth Certificate, Social Security card, DPS License or ID Card

Tex. Fam. Code § 107.003(b)(3)(B) and § 107.002(b-1)(3)
New Law
Identification Documents
Youth Experiencing Homelessness or in Foster Care

HB 123 (2019) Identification Documents for Homeless and Foster Youth

Texas Birth Certificate
- No Parent/Guardian Consent Required
- No Fee

DPS ID or License
- No additional proof of residency required (See also 37 TAC 15.49 Proof of Domicile)
- No Fee
- Fees covered by donations—but more than enough has been donated
- Does not cover Social Security cards (federally issued)
Even Newer Law Funding Driver Education/Exam Fees

SB 2026 (2021) Funding for Driver Education and License Exam Fees

- Covers current and aged out foster youth up to age 26 youth experiencing homelessness (McKinney-Vento certified)
- Funds are excess funds donated to DPS for identification cards and licenses for foster and homeless youth
- Any fee associated with meeting requirements to become licensed driver to appropriate entities (driver education schools
- Texas Workforce Commission will administer funds
- Not signed yet by governor
- Don’t expect quick setup or access
If age 6-17

- Unexpired ID/License
- Certified copy of medical record that lists d/o/b or age
- School ID Card or certified record, transcript or report card for current or prior year
- Can’t order online
- Social Security Program Operations Manual RM 10210.420 Priority List of Acceptable Evidence of Identity Documents

Social Security Cards
If Over 18

- Unexpired ID/License
- Non-government employee ID card showing name & either photograph or DOB
- Certified copy of medical record that lists d/o/b or age
- School ID Card or certified record, transcript for current year
- Can’t order online w/out current ID and “credit history”

Social Security Program Operations Manual RM 10210.420 Priority List of Acceptable Evidence of Identity Documents
Pandemic Office Closure

- Call with youth and find out what they can do
- If won’t give an in-person appointment and want them to mail in original documents
  - Don’t mail in difficult/expensive to replace documents (immigration, foreign issued)
  - Use advocate’s address to prevent problems with return of documents
- Youth in Foster Care - Request SSI Coordinator obtain Social Security Cards
Who is Covered by New ID Docs Law

Homeless Child or Youth

- The meaning assigned by 42 U.S.C. Section 11434 (the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act)
- Individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence including
  - sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; or are abandoned in hospitals;
Who is Covered by New Law

Homeless Child or Youth Continued

- Individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence including
  - primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings
  - living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and
  - migratory children are living in described circumstances
Who is Covered by New Law

Age Range for Homeless Child or Youth

- Age 0-21 (or 22 for students in special education)
- McKinney-Vento Act has no program specific age requirement-age eligibility is the same as access to public education services under state and federal law
- Texas “younger than 21 years of age on the first day of September of the school year in which admission is sought” Tex. Education Code 25.001 (b)
- Students receiving special education entitled to services through the end of the school year in which they attain 22nd birthday
- Other federally funded early childhood programs use McKinney-Vento certification
Who is Covered by New Law

Unaccompanied **AND** Accompanied Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness

- No requirement that be unaccompanied
- Parents/caregivers can use to obtain birth certificates which can be a critical for accessing benefits
Who is Covered by New Law

Foster Youth and Young Adults

- Children or youth under age 18 in the managing conservatorship of DFPS
- Young adults at least 18 years of age, but younger than 21 years of age residing in foster care placement paid for by DFPS
  - Extended Foster Care, including Supervised Independent Living placement
  - Does not cover young adults who aged out of foster care not currently in care—but may qualify as homeless
**DFPS Form 2042 Foster Care Residency Verification**

Form K-908-2042, Youth or Young Adult in Foster Care Residency Verification for a Driver License or State ID Fee Waiver

### Purpose
This form is completed by DFPS staff to confirm that the applicant identified below meets the requirements in the Texas Transportation Code Section 5521.1091 or 5521.1092 that authorizes the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) to waive fees related to the issuance of a driver license or state identification card as long as there is funding available in the DPS identification fee exemption account. Refer to the DFPS Driver License and State Identification Resource Guide for guidance on completion of this form.

### Directions
- If the applicant is a minor in the managing conservatorship of DFPS, this certification must be signed by the applicants’ DFPS primary caseworker or supervisor.
- If the applicant is an individual 18 years of age but under age 21 and in a DFPS-paid placement, this certification must be signed by the applicants’ DFPS primary caseworker or other authorized DFPS staff. This form does not need to be notarized.

The Application for Texas Driver License or Identification Card DPS Form DL-146 or Form DL-148 must be completed and signed. For youth under age 16, the DFPS primary caseworker signature of authorization is required on the driver license application to obtain a driver license. If the DFPS primary caseworker does not go with the youth to the driver’s license office, they must ensure the driver license application is notarized before the youth goes to the driver license office. DFPS primary caseworker authorization is not required to obtain a state identification card. For the state identification card, the youth can sign the application at the Driver License Office in the presence of a DPS employee.

### Youth or Young Adult Information
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Full name of the youth or young adult:</th>
<th>DFPS Person ID (PID)</th>
<th>Date of Birth</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### Mailing Address
**Note:** A youth or young adult may use the caseworker’s address as the Mailing Address. This eliminates the requirement to make a change of address when a youth or young adult changes placements.

- **Caseworker’s Name (Attention of):**
- **Caseworker’s DFPS office address:**

### Current Address
A youth or young adult may use their current, physical address as the mailing address if the youth is in an intended to be permanent placement or a young adult chooses to have mail sent directly to them and plans to inform DPS every time they change placements.

- **Placement Name:**
- **Placement Address:**

The applicant meets the following requirement (check the appropriate boxes):
- [ ] Is a minor in the managing conservatorship of DFPS; or
- [ ] Is an individual at least 18 years of age but under age 21 and in a paid DFPS placement; and
- [ ] Resides at the current address listed above
DFPS Caseworker is responsible for a youth obtaining ID documents before they turn 16

- Form facilitates process, but does not end involvement
- Provides proof that in DFPS conservatorship
- Establishes Texas Residency
- Fee waiver for Texas ID/License and birth certificate
- Complete for youth in foster care or extended foster care
- Single Source Community Care (SSCC) caseworker=DFPS Caseworker (page 2)
- Help youth gather all required documents and send with caring adult
Completing Application for Texas Driver License or Identification Card

- **DL-14B Texas Driver License or Identification Card Application (Minor)**
  - If under 17 years and 10 months
  - Must be signed by caseworker before a notary for driver’s license
  - If youth is obtaining ID, not required but filling out = correct information

- **DL-14A - Texas Driver License or Identification Card Application (Adult)**
  - If 17 years and 10 months or older
  - Must be signed by caseworker before notary for driver’s license under 18 otherwise the youth/young adult will sign at DPS office
  - Helping fill out = correct information
Texas Law update address and obtain new ID/license whenever you move

- Law allows foster youth to use caseworker’s office address as mailing address
- Caseworker completes mailing address (office address including c/o their name) and youth’s current placement address.
- If in placement that is intended to be permanent, such as with a relative or a foster home of several years, youth can use current address as the mailing address on the application form for ID or license, otherwise use office address
  - Facilitates receiving official notices
- Young adults decide which address to use - discuss options and responsibilities
Documentation of Coverage
Certification of Homeless Status

Certification of Homeless Status Form

- Developed by Texas Foster Youth Justice Project and Texas Appleseed
  - Texas Education Agency provided input
  - DPS and Vital Statistics have included in their procedures and guidance
  - Form available at TexasFosterYouth.org and in materials
Documentation of Coverage
Certification of Homeless Status

Document must:

- Certify that a child or youth is homeless as defined by McKinney-Vento Assistance Act 42 U.S.C. Section 11434a

- Be issued by:
  - School district in which the child or youth is enrolled;
  - Director of an emergency shelter or transitional housing program funded by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development; or,
  - Director of basic center for runaway and homeless youth or a transitional living program
Certification of Homeless Status
for Texas Birth Certificate and Texas Identification Card and Driver’s License

Full Name of Homeless Child/Youth: ________________________________
Date of Birth: ________________

I, ___________________________________,
certify, to the best of my knowledge and belief, that on the date listed below, the above-named individual is a homeless child or youth, as defined by 42 U.S.C. Section 11434a, the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. I provide this certification in my capacity as (check one below):

☐ A designated district liaison with the school district where the child/youth listed above is enrolled
☐ The director of an emergency shelter or transitional housing program funded by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development
☐ The director of a basic center for runaway and homeless youth
☐ The director of a transitional living program

Signature: ________________________________ Date: ________________
Title: ___________________________________________
Employer: ______________________________________
Email: ________________________________ Phone Number: ________________
Address: ______________________________________
Definition of Homeless Child or Youth, as Defined by 42 U.S.C. Section 11434a, the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

The term “homeless children and youths”—

means individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence

includes—

(a) children and youths who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason, are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations, are living in emergency or transitional shelters, or are abandoned in hospital;

(b) children and youths who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for humans;

(c) children and youths who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substations, housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and

(d) migratory children who qualify as homeless for the purposes of this part because the children are living in circumstances described in clauses (i) through (iii) above.

Birth Certificates

Effective September 1, 2019: Texas Health and Safety Code §191.0049: State and Local Registrars and County Clerks shall provide birth records (birth certificates) to homeless children and youths as defined by 42 U.S.C. Section 11434a, the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, without fee or parental consent. See link [https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/services/BirthCertificateForFoster-or-Homeless-Youth.aspx] for more information.

Texas Identification Cards and Driver’s Licenses

Effective September 1, 2019: Texas Transportation Code §521.1015 states that a homeless child or youth, as defined by 42 U.S.C. Section 11434a, the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, may provide a copy of their birth certificate as proof of their identity and U.S. citizenship, provide a letter from one of the entities listed on the form, certifying the child or youth is homeless and does not have a residence or domicile, and obtain a personal identification certificate (Texas ID) without the signatures, presence of or permission from the parent or guardian of the child or youth and be exempt from payment of the ID card fee. Texas Transportation Code §521.1811 waives the fee for a driver’s license for a homeless youth. See DPS Homeless Child or Youth Driver’s License Fact Sheet.

Additional Information

How Homeless and Unaccompanied Youth Can Get Their Texas Birth Certificate, and Texas ID Card and Texas Driver’s License under Identification Documents — [TexasFosterYouth.org]

DPS Homeless Child or Youth Driver’s License Fact Sheet under Identification Documents — [TexasFosterYouth.org]

DPS Homeless Child or Youth Identification Card Fact Sheet under Identification Documents on TexasFosterYouth.org

Certification of Homeless Status for Texas Birth Certificates and Texas Identification Card and Driver’s License Form ver. 9-23-2020

Developed by Texas McKinney-Vento Legal Aid Texas Foster Youth Justice Project, TexasCertificate.com.
Birth Certificates

Birth Certificate Basics

Must be obtained from state where youth was born

  Different rules about obtaining for each state
  Local birth certificate offices sometimes are more flexible/quick
  Some other states have similar provisions that allow for waiver of fees for homeless, school personnel to help obtain for homeless youth

If youth was adopted-still obtain from state where youth was born

Foreign born youth with adoption in Texas-may have Texas birth certificate but not proof of US citizenship
Birth Certificates

Obtaining Texas Birth Certificate

No parental/DFPS consent required if under 18!

To obtain fee waiver can’t order online
  Must visit office [dshs.texas.gov/vs/local.aspx](http://dshs.texas.gov/vs/local.aspx) or order by mail

Some offices issue birth certificate no matter where you were born in Texas, if born in different county, select *Local Birth Certificate Issuers*
  Local office=quicker (if they understand the law)

Texas Vital Statistics website [Birth Certificate for Foster or Homeless Youth](http://birthcertificatefortexas.com)
Birth Certificates

Obtaining Texas Birth Certificate

More information on Texas Foster Youth Justice Project webpage:

How Homeless and Unaccompanied Youth Can Get Their Texas Birth Certificate, and Texas ID Card and Texas Driver’s License

Problems?

Ask office to check the dshs.texas.gov/vs/local.aspx

Ask to speak to supervisor

Ask office to call the State Vital Statistics office

Obtain name of person denying, reason for denial and contact TFYJP
Birth Certificates

Documents Needed for Texas Birth Certificate

Primary Acceptable Document (if over 18 can also use to order online by uploading copy but will have to pay fee)

- Driver's License from a U.S. State
- Federal or State ID Card
- Military ID Card
- U.S. Passport
- Offender ID from Texas Department of Criminal Justice, U.S. Facility
Birth Certificates

Documents Needed for Texas Birth Certificate

If No Primary Acceptable Document

- Two Secondary Acceptable ID  OR One Secondary Acceptable ID and Two Supporting Documents
- Complete list at Texas Vital Statistics
Birth Certificates

Secondary Acceptable Documents Youth Likely to Have

- Current School or Work ID
- Social Security Card (be sure signed) or, if over 18, numident record
- Medicaid Card
- Health Insurance Card
Birth Certificates

Likely Supporting Documents

- Official School Records
- Library Card
- Social Security Letter
- Recent Medical Record or Bill
  (Recent not defined)
- Recent Paycheck Stub
- Recent Cell Phone bill with Current Address
- Public Benefits Letters or Application
- Voter Registration Card (Register 17 and 10 Months or Older)
- Bank Account Statement
- Lease Agreement or Recent Rent Receipt
- Religious Records with Signature of Religious Official (Example: Certificate of Baptism)
ID or Driver’s License

ID and Driver’s License Basics (Continued)

- Same identification documents required for both ID and driver’s license
- DPS Fact Sheets
  - *DPS Homeless Youth ID Card Fact Sheet*
  - *DPS Homeless Youth Driver’s License Fact Sheet*
  - *DPS Foster Youth ID Card Fact Sheet*
  - *DPS Foster Youth Driver License Fact Sheet*
- Texas Foster Youth Justice Project Developed Resources
  - *How Homeless and Unaccompanied Youth Can Get Their Texas Birth Certificate, and Texas ID Card and Texas Driver’s License*
  - *How Foster Youth Can Get Their Texas Birth Certificate, and Texas ID Card and Texas Driver’s License*
ID or Driver’s License

ID and Driver’s License Basics (Continued)

- Additional details of documents at [DPS website](https://www.dps.texas.gov) including in *DPS What it Takes to Apply DL-57* brochure
  - Lists are not exhaustive
- Certification Homeless Status Form or DFPS Form 2042 Foster Care Residency Verification
  - No Proof of Residency in Texas required
  - No fee
ID or Driver’s License

Proof of U.S. Citizenship

- Certified Birth Certificate from Texas or another U.S. state
- If not born in the United States proof that you are a U.S. citizen or have lawful presence
  - U.S. Citizenship Certificate or Certificate of Naturalization
  - U.S. Passport
  - Consular Report of Birth Abroad Issued by U.S. Department of State
  - Lawful Permanent Resident Card (Green Card)
  - Other unexpired immigration document that shows lawful presence in the United States. Contact the TFYJP for help assessing document.
ID or Driver’s License

Proof of Social Security Number

- Social Security Card
- IRS W-2 form or 1099 form (tax forms that employer provides in January)
- Paycheck stub with name and Social Security number on it (ask employer for custom stub that includes SSN)
- Other documents with Social Security Number?
  - Letter from Social Security Administration
  - Social Security Numident History
    - Contact TFYJP for guidance in obtaining
ID or Driver’s License

Proof of Identity-One Primary Identification Document (No Secondary or Supporting Documents Needed)

- Photo IDs issued by government agencies with the full name and date of birth
  - Generally unexpired required
- U.S. Passport
- U.S. Citizenship Certificate or Certificate of Naturalization
- Lawful Permanent Resident Card (Green Card)
- Employment Authorization Card (I-766)
- Other U.S. Department Homeland Security (DHS) or U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) documents
ID or Driver’s License


- Secondary Identification Document
  - U.S. issued birth certificate
  - Consular Report of Birth Abroad issued by U.S. State Department
  - Court Order with change of name or gender
    - Must include name and date of birth
    - U.S. court or Canadian court
ID or Driver’s License

Supporting Identification Documents

- Social Security Card
- School ID
- School Report Card or Transcript
- Immunization Records
- Medicaid Card
- Hospital Issued Birth Record
- IRS W-2 form or 1099 form (tax forms that employer provides in January)
- Voter Registration Card (Register When 17 and 10 Months or Older)
- Selective Service Card (Males 18 or older who have completed registration)
ID or Driver’s License

Driver’s License Requirements Beyond Identification Documents

- Many additional requirements to obtain Driver’s License
  - DPS Homeless Youth Driver’s License Fact Sheet
  - dps.texas.gov/~/ApplyforLicense.htm
  - dps.texas.gov/DriverLicense/teenDriver.htm

- If under 18 years of age
  - Any youth, including youth experiencing homelessness, must have authorizing adult sign the application
    - If authorizing adult not accompanying youth to DPS office, must sign before a notary
    - Authorizing adult is the only person eligible to withdraw authorization for the license.

- Driving school can offer license test and provide car with insurance for test
ID or Driver’s License

What About Two Texas Residency Documents?

- When a youth or young adult has documentation that they are in foster care or are certification of homelessness, they don’t need the two documents that show their name and current Texas address.
- Yeah HB 123!
ID or Driver’s License

Problems?

- Show relevant DPS fact sheet
- Show information about the laws on Certification of Homeless Status Form
- Ask for supervisor
- Obtain name of person denying, reason for denial and contact TFYJP
Contact Information

Texas Foster Youth Justice Project
Hotline: (877) 313-3688
Email: info@texasfosteryouth.org
Website: www.texasfosteryouth.org

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