

# CPS REPEALS BAN ON BENEFITS FOR AGING OUT FOSTER YOUTH WHO LIVE WITH THEIR PARENTS AT 18

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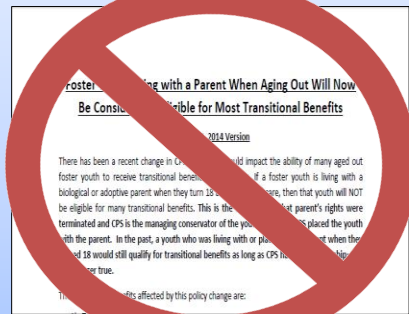
In September 2014, CPS implemented a new policy that denied most transitional benefits to an aged out foster youth if the foster youth (who was still under CPS conservatorship) lived with a biological or adoptive parent when he or she turned 18. **The Texas Foster Youth Justice Project received notification that CPS is reversing this policy.**

**Effective immediately**, a foster youth under CPS conservatorship who is placed with or living with a parent or guardian when they turn 18 is eligible to receive all transitional benefits and services, provided they meet the other requirements for the specific benefit or service. CPS has provided the required notice to the Federal Children's Bureau that these aged out foster youth are now part of the population that can be served in Texas with federal Chafee funds.

**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.**



**Aged out foster youth whose benefits were discontinued or denied because they were living with a parent when they turned 18 are once again eligible to receive those benefits and services. These foster youth should contact their PAL worker and After Care Case manager to get their benefits reinstated.**

If an aged out foster youth has trouble reinstating benefits and services or is unsure who to contact, he or she can contact the Texas Foster Youth Justice Project toll free at 877-313-3688 or [info@texasfosteryouth.org](mailto:info@texasfosteryouth.org) for free advice and assistance.

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

An aged out foster youth may have to meet additional requirements for each specific benefit or service. You can find more information about these benefits at [texasfosteryouth.org](http://texasfosteryouth.org).

### **A NOTE ON AFTERCARE ROOM & BOARD**

A foster youth who ages out of care while living with a parent 18 will be ineligible to receive Aftercare Room and Board while they are living with a parent. If the former foster youth moves out of their parents' house, they may then be able access the funds. Aftercare Room and Board funds cover food and shelter expenses such as rent, deposits, and utilities.

### **A NOTE ON COURT GRANTING CONSERVATORSHIP TO A PARENT OR GUARDIAN**

The decision to place a foster youth with a parent and possibly transfer conservatorship back to that parent will have important implications for transitional living benefits. When permanent managing conservatorship is transferred from CPS to another conservator before the youth turns 18, the youth will lose eligibility for many post-foster care benefits and services.

Before a final decision about transferring conservatorship is made, youth and those that work with them should request written information from the youth's Preparation for Adult Living (PAL) worker about what benefits the youth will receive if CPS is not a conservator when the youth turns 18. It is important to know exactly what resources will be available to the young adult, especially if there are concerns about how much long-term support the conservator will provide to the youth.

The Texas Foster Youth Justice Project is available to provide free legal guidance or assistance to foster youth and those who work with them regarding the impact of living with a parent or guardian, as well as possible transfer of conservatorship, can have on transitional benefits.

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

For youth friendly information on this topic visit the [Aging Out section](#) of [texasfosteryouth.org](http://texasfosteryouth.org).

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