

DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

POLICY GUIDE 2020.06

**Procedures 302.Appendix M, Transition Planning for Adolescents and
Procedures 314, Educational Services**

DATE: January 9, 2020

TO: All DCFS and Purchase of Service (POS) Agency Permanency Workers,
Permanency Supervisors and Managers

FROM: Marc D. Smith, Acting Director

EFFECTIVE: Immediately

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Policy Guide is to inform staff of several amendments in Illinois law affecting older youth in care made in **Public Acts 101-0078 and 101-0558**. In the coming weeks, **Procedures 302.Appendix M, Transition Planning for Adolescents, and Procedures 314, Educational Services** will be amended to reflect these statutory changes.

II. PRIMARY USERS

Primary users of this Policy Guide are Department and POS Permanency Workers, Permanency Supervisors, and Administrators.

III. SUMMARY OF LEGISLATIVE CHANGES

A. Public Act 101-0078 (Senate Bill 191), effective July 12, 2019

Public Act 101-0078 amended Section 2-31 of the Juvenile Court Act [705 ILCS 405/2-31]:

- raising the age for automatically terminating guardianship of a youth to 21 years of age, unless otherwise ordered by the court; and
- clarifying that a youth's lack of cooperation with services provided by the Department shall not by itself be considered sufficient evidence that the youth is prepared to live independently and that it is in the best interest of the youth to terminate wardship.

B. Public Act 101-0558 (Senate Bill 1525), effective January 1, 2020

Public Act 101-0558 amended Section 8 of the Children and Family Services Act [20 ILCS 505/8] describing the Department's Scholarship Program and Tuition and Fee Waivers. Effective January 1, 2020, youth eligible to apply for a Department scholarship are also eligible to apply for tuition and fee waivers at Illinois public community colleges, colleges and universities for at least the first 5 years they are enrolled, as long as they make satisfactory progress toward completing their degree. Language stating the applicant must have not been selected to receive a DCFS Scholarship was stricken from the statute.

C. Public Act 101-0558 (Senate Bill 1525), effective January 1, 2020
DCFS Apprenticeship Stipends

Public Act 101-0558 added Section 8(c) of the Children and Family Services Act [20 ILCS 505/8] authorizing the Department, subject to appropriation, to provide an apprenticeship stipend to eligible youth covering costs associated with entering and sustaining through completion an apprenticeship. Eligible youth include:

- youth in care; and
- former youth in care:
 - who were adopted with an adoption assistance agreement;
 - who were placed in private guardianship with a subsidized guardianship agreement; or
 - who have aged out of care at age 18 or older.

Youth must be enrolled in an apprenticeship program approved by the Illinois Department of Employment Security or the U.S. Department of Labor and may not be a recipient of a DCFS scholarship or fee waiver.

Youth must also be under the age of 26 before enrolling in a qualified apprenticeship program.

Information regarding the application and approval process for the apprenticeship stipend program will be announced in the next few weeks.

IV. NEW, REVISED AND OBSOLETE FORMS

CFS 438-A, Tuition and Fee Waiver Program (Rev 1/2020)

The form is available on the Department's website and templates drive and can be ordered in the usual manner.

V. QUESTIONS

Questions concerning this Policy Guide should be directed to the Office of Child and Family Policy by emailing the DCFS.Policy on Outlook. Persons and agencies not on Outlook can e-mail questions to DCFS.policy@illinois.gov.

VI. FILING INSTRUCTIONS

Place this Policy Guide after Procedures 302.Appendix M and Procedures 314.

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