

REPLACES:

SECTION: 31-650.1
PAGE NO.: 1
ISSUED/REVISED: 01-01-2012

Extended Foster Care: Re-Entry

SECTION: 31-650.1
PAGE NO.: 1
EFFECTIVE: 05-27-2020**I. BACKGROUND**

Effective January 1, 2012, Assembly Bill 12 (AB 12), the California Fostering Connections to Success Act, created Extended Foster Care (EFC). EFC is a voluntary program that allows eligible youth and nonminors to remain in or re-enter foster care after reaching age 18, and up until their 21st birthday. AB 12 participants receive foster care benefits, Medi-Cal, and transitional support services.

Eligible nonminors who exited foster care after turning 18 or who qualify as a special population may petition the juvenile court to resume dependency jurisdiction and re-enter foster care. Nonminors under the jurisdiction of the court are known as “Nonminor Dependents” (NMDs).

Refer to [DM 31-650 Extended Foster Care \(AB 12\) Policy](#) for more information.

II. POLICY**A. Re-Entry Eligibility Criteria**

To re-enter EFC, a nonminor must meet the eligibility criteria outlined below:

1. **Age Range.** The nonminor must be at least 18 years old to participate in EFC, and may remain eligible for services until age 21.
2. **Juvenile Court Status.** Nonminors must have reached 18 years of age while under an order of foster care placement by a child welfare department, county probation department, or a Tribal Title IV-E agreement.
3. **Education and Employment Participation.** The nonminor must meet and maintain one of five statutory conditions to be eligible for AB 12:
 - Working towards completing high school or equivalent credential.
 - Attending college or enrolled in a vocational education program.
 - Participation in a program or activity designed to promote or remove barriers to employment.
 - Employed for at least 80 hours per month.
 - Have a documented, verified medical condition that renders the nonminor incapable of any of the above participation criteria (e.g., NMD is a Regional Center client).

REPLACES:

SECTION: 31-650.1
PAGE NO.: 1
ISSUED/REVISED: 01-01-2012

Extended Foster Care: Re-Entry

SECTION: 31-650.1
PAGE NO.: 2
EFFECTIVE: 05-27-2020

- 4. Compliance Criteria.** The nonminor must agree that by re-entering EFC, he/she intends to comply with the program requirements, which include:
- Sign a Voluntary Re-entry Agreement for Extended Foster Care (SOC 163), in which the nonminor acknowledges he/she is voluntarily agreeing to re-enter foster care and participate in a case plan.
 - Participate in developing a Transitional Independent Living Plan (TILP) with the Social Worker.
 - Meet with his/her Social Worker or Probation Officer once a month.
 - Agree to continued court supervision.
 - Reside in a CFS approved facility; the nonminor may need assistance in securing an appropriate supervised placement.
- 5. Facility Criteria.** All EFC participants must reside in a CFS approved and supervised facility. Eligible facilities are outlined in the [DM 31-650 Extended Foster Care \(AB 12\) Policy](#).

If the nonminor is experiencing homelessness at the time of re-entry, the Independent Living Skills Program (ILSP) unit will provide the nonminor with information and resources (e.g., [211.org](#)) while an appropriate placement setting is identified.

B. Special Population Re-Entry

Certain special populations are eligible for re-entry into EFC and do not need an order for foster care placement on their 18th birthday. Provisions are included in AB 12 for extension of benefits to former dependents who meet eligibility criteria due to receipt of Kinship Guardianship Assistance Program (Kin-GAP), Adoption Assistance Program (AAP), or Non-Related Legal Guardian (NRLG) benefits. Refer to [DM 31-650 Extended Foster Care \(AB 12\) Policy](#) for more information.

III. RE-ENTRY PROCEDURES

Nonminors who are former foster youth seeking re-entry should be directed to call the Child Abuse Hotline at (877) 881-1116. The nonminor must make the call to the hotline; phone calls on behalf of the nonminor should not occur unless the nonminor is incapacitated or medically unable to make the phone call.

Refer to the [Re-Entry for Extended Foster Care \(EFC\) Flow Chart](#) for more information.

REPLACES:

SECTION: 31-650.1
PAGE NO.: 1
ISSUED/REVISED: 01-01-2012

Extended Foster Care: Re-Entry

SECTION: 31-650.1
PAGE NO.: 3
EFFECTIVE: 05-27-2020**A. Screening Social Worker Responsibilities**

Screening Social Workers handle phone calls to the Child Abuse Hotline from individuals who identify themselves as former foster youth wishing to re-enter.

- 1) Record information from the caller on the AB 12 Referral Information Document (RID). In addition to acquiring all contact information for the nonminor (e.g., phone number, email address, mailing address), the Screening Social Worker (SW) should gather contact information for anyone the nonminor has consistent contact with (e.g., a relative, friend, etc.).

The Screening SW reviews the clearances to determine if the nonminor potentially meets the statutory requirements for re-entry. The County that maintained dependency jurisdiction over the nonminor at the time he/she exited foster care will have case management and financial responsibility for the nonminor, and court jurisdiction upon re-entry.

- 2) The Screening SW sends the referral to the Permanency and Transition Services Supervisor.

B. Permanency and Transition (P&T) Services Supervisor Responsibilities

The P&T Supervisor reviews the information provided from the Hotline and contacts the nonminor to confirm their interest in participating in EFC. Once it has been confirmed that the nonminor is interested in re-entering foster care and expressed intent to adhere to EFC compliance criteria, the P&T Supervisor engages in the following steps:

1) Convene a Re-entry Child and Family Team (CFT) Meeting

- a) P&T Supervisor follows the referral protocol to schedule a CFT. Refer to [DM 31-200 Child and Family Team \(CFT\) Meetings Policy](#) for more information.
- b) The CFT is convened, at which time the P&T Supervisor assists the nonminor in the completion of re-entry forms. CFS staff present at the CFT Meeting include:
 - The nonminor
 - P&T Supervisor
 - ILSP Representative
 - CFT Facilitator

REPLACES:

SECTION: 31-650.1 PAGE NO.: 1 ISSUED/REVISED: 01-01-2012	Extended Foster Care: Re-Entry	SECTION: 31-650.1 PAGE NO.: 4 EFFECTIVE: 05-27-2020
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Accommodations can be made to conduct a CFT over the phone in the event the nonminor cannot attend in person. Re-entry paperwork is mailed to the nonminor with a pre-paid return envelope.

- 2) Re-Entry Documentation.** The P&T Supervisor assists the nonminor in reviewing and completing the following eligibility-related documents:
- Request to Return to Juvenile Court Jurisdiction and Foster Care (JV-466)
 - Confidential Information - Request to Return to Juvenile Court Jurisdiction and Foster Care (JV-468)
 - Voluntary Re-entry Agreement for Extended Foster Care (SOC 163)
 - Initial Application for CalFresh, Cash Aid, and/or Medi-Cal/Health Care Programs (SAWS 1)
 - Statement of Facts Supporting Eligibility for AFDC-Extended Foster Care (FC 2 NM)
 - Emergency Assistance Application for Child Welfare Services (EA-1)

3) Initiating Payment Benefits

The P&T Supervisor will send the completed Voluntary Re-entry Agreement for Extended Foster Care (SOC 163) form to the Children's Services System Support Specialist (CSSSS, also known as an ATM) to re-open the case in the Child Welfare System/Case Management System (CWS/CMS). Re-opening the case is necessary for an AB 12 Social Worker to be assigned.

The SOC 163 should be signed before placement or simultaneously, and must be done before filing for a re-entry hearing. The date the nonminor signed the SOC 163 is the earliest beginning of aid date.

4) Assignment of an AB 12 Social Worker

The P&T Supervisor will assign the re-opened case to an AB 12 Social Worker. Prior to an AB 12 Social Worker being assigned, ILSP staff will work collaboratively with the P&T Supervisor to support the nonminor.

REPLACES:

SECTION: 31-650.1
PAGE NO.: 1
ISSUED/REVISED: 01-01-2012

Extended Foster Care: Re-Entry

SECTION: 31-650.1
PAGE NO.: 5
EFFECTIVE: 05-27-2020**C. Social Worker Responsibilities Prior to Re-Entry (pre-hearing)**

- Meet face-to-face with the nonminor
- Prepare the court report by utilizing the Nonminor Dependent Re-Entry Report template available in CWS/CMS
- Submit the following documents to the Clerical Specialist (Tech):
 - Clerical Specialist Tech Form (CWS 16)
 - Voluntary Re-entry Agreement for Extended Foster Care (SOC 163)
 - Six-Month Certification of Extended Foster Care Participation (SOC 161)
 - Initial Application for CalFresh, Cash Aid, and/or Medi-Cal/Health Care Programs (SAWS 1)
 - Statement of Facts Supporting Eligibility for AFDC-Extended Foster Care (FC 2 NM)
 - Emergency Assistance Application for Child Welfare Services (EA-1)
 - Copies of appropriate placement approvals if required (e.g., SOC 157A and SOC 157B)
- Once jurisdiction is resumed the Social Worker will forward the Court Order (JV-470) indicating continuance in foster care placement to the Clerical Specialist. The Clerical Specialist will ensure copies of applicable documents are forwarded to the Eligibility Worker (EW) for maintaining and processing ongoing EFC eligibility. For information pertaining to specific Clerical Specialist and Eligibility Worker instructions, refer to the [AB 12 Desk Guide](#).
- In collaboration with the nonminor, complete the case plan and TILP no later than 60 calendar days after jurisdiction is reinstated.

D. Court Process

The Re-Entry Petition (which includes the JV 466, JV 468, and JV 470) must be filed by CFS with the court clerk's office within 15 judicial days of the date the SOC 163 is signed. The signed SOC 163 serves as a valid authority for placement and payment benefits for no more than 180 calendar days.

If the Court determines there is sufficient evidence, a hearing will be set within 15 judicial days of the date the petition was filed. Prior to the hearing, the AB 12 Social Worker must prepare and submit a court report that states the nonminor

REPLACES:

SECTION: 31-650.1
PAGE NO.: 1
ISSUED/REVISED: 01-01-2012

Extended Foster Care: Re-Entry

SECTION: 31-650.1
PAGE NO.: 6
EFFECTIVE: 05-27-2020

intends to meet one of the EFC participation criteria, and has signed the SOC 163, thus entering into a voluntary re-entry agreement.

At the hearing, the Court will grant or deny the re-entry request to resume jurisdiction over the nonminor.

E. Ongoing Case Management. AB 12 Social Worker responsibilities for providing case management services to re-entry NMDs includes, but is not limited to:

- Engage in reasonable efforts to ensure the NMD has appropriate services and supports in place to maintain EFC eligibility and further his/her transition to successful adulthood.
- Complete monthly visitation.
- Continue to engage the Child and Family Team (CFT) and develop permanent, lifelong connections for the NMD.
- Encourage NMD to participate in ILSP to access more supportive services and resources.
- Develop a case plan and TILP in collaboration with the NMD. A case plan and TILP must be completed no later than sixty (60) calendar days from the date the nonminor signs the Voluntary Re-Entry Agreement.
- Review and update the TILP and SOC 161 with the NMD at least once every six months.
- Provide information to the Court.
- Hold a follow-up CFT (also known as a Youth Transition Meeting) every six months or more frequently if needed.
- Hold a 90-Day Youth Transition Meeting (YTM) and complete a 90-Day Transition Plan 90 days prior to the NMD's 21st birthday, or sooner if an NMD under the maximum age limit expresses a desire to exit foster care.

RESOURCES

[AB 12 Desk Guide - Eligibility Worker Instructions](#)

[Re-Entry for Extended Foster Care \(EFC\) Flow Chart](#)

[90-Day Transition Plan \(FC 1637\) \(CWS/CMS\)](#)

[CFT Referral Form \(CWS/CMS\)](#)

[Desk Guide: Independent Living Skills Program \(ILSP\) Overview and FAQs](#)

[Desk Guide: Independent Living Skills Program \(ILSP\) Documentation Guide](#)

[Independent Living Skills Program \(ILSP\) Referral Form](#)

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REPLACES:

SECTION: 31-650.1
PAGE NO.: 1
ISSUED/REVISED: 01-01-2012

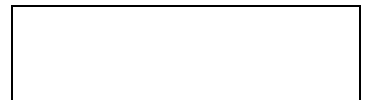
Extended Foster Care: Re-Entry

SECTION: 31-650.1
PAGE NO.: 7
EFFECTIVE: 05-27-2020

JV-367 Findings and Orders After Hearing to Consider Termination of Juvenile Court Jurisdiction Over a Nonminor
 JV-464-INFO How to Ask to Return to Juvenile Court Jurisdiction and Foster Care
 JV-466 Request to Return to Juvenile Court Jurisdiction and Foster Care
 JV-468 Confidential Information—Request to Return to Juvenile Court Jurisdiction and Foster Care
 JV-470 Findings and Orders Regarding Prima Facie Showing on Nonminor’s Request to Reenter Foster Care
 CWS 16 Clerical Specialist (Tech) Form
 EA-1 Emergency Assistance Application for Child Welfare Services
 FC 2 NM Statement of Facts Supporting Eligibility for AFDC-Extended Foster Care
 KG 3 Kin-GAP Mutual Agreement for Nonminor Former Dependents
 SAWS 1 Initial Application for CalFresh, Cash Aid, and/or Medi-Cal/Health Care Programs
 SOC 152 Placement Agency – THP Plus FC Provider Agreement
 SOC 153 Placement Agency – Foster Family Agency Agreement
 SOC 154B Placement Agency – Group Home Agreement NMD Placed by Agency
 SOC 156A Placement Agency – Foster Parent Agreement NMD Placed by Agency
 SOC 157A Supervised Independent Living (SILP) Approval and Placement Agreement
 SOC 157B SILP Inspection: Checklist of Facility Health and Safety Standards
 SOC 157C Standardized SILP Readiness Assessment Tool
 SOC 161 Six-Month Certification of Extended Foster Care Participations
 SOC 162 Mutual Agreement for Extended Foster Care
 SOC 163 Voluntary Re-Entry Agreement for Extended Foster Care
 SOC 815 Approval of Family Caregiver Home
 TILP 1 Transitional Independent Living Plan and Agreement (TILP 1)

REFERENCES

ACIN I-40-11 Program Information Re: AB 12 and the Extension of Foster Care to Age 20
 ACL 11-61 Extended Foster Care (EFC)
 ACL 11-69 Extension of Foster Care Beyond Age 18: Part One
 ACL 11-77 Extension of Foster Care Beyond Age 18: Part Two (Placement)
 ACL 11-17 California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids: Extending Benefits to Nonminor Dependents
 ACL 11-78E California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids: Extending Benefits to Nonminor Dependents
 ACL 11-85 Extension of Foster Care Beyond Age 18: Part Three (Probation)
 ACL 11-86 Kinship Guardianship Assistance Payment (KIN-GAP) and Adoption Assistance Payments (AAP) to Age 21
 ACL 12-12 Re-entry Into Extended Foster Care (EFC)
 ACL 12-27 California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs): Extending Benefits to Nonminor Dependents – Questions and Answers (Part One)
 ACL 12-43 Aid To Families With Dependent Children-Foster Care (AFDC-FC) California



REPLACES:

SECTION: 31-650.1
PAGE NO.: 1
ISSUED/REVISED: 01-01-2012

Extended Foster Care: Re-Entry

SECTION: 31-650.1
PAGE NO.: 8
EFFECTIVE: 05-27-2020

- Necessities Index (CNI) Increases and Other Rate Increases; Clarification of the Continuation of AFDC-FC Benefits Beyond Age 19
- ACL 12-44 Transitional Housing Placement-Plus-Foster Care and Changes to Transitional Housing Placement Program and Transitional Housing Program-Plus
- ACL 12-48 Extended Benefits for Nonminors Living with Current or Former Non-Related Legal Guardians (NRLG)
- ACIN I-29-13 Extended Foster Care (EFC) Update
- ACL 13-09 Transitioning Youth from Transitional Housing Placement Program (THPP) to the Transitional Housing Placement Plus Foster Care (THP+FC) Program
- ACL 14-33 Nonminor Dependents (NMDs) Placed Out of State
- ACL 15-67 Additional Payment for a NMD Parent in a SILP
- ACL 16-50 Additional Payment for a NMD Parent in a SILP Questions and Answers
- ACIN I-76-15 Extended Foster Care (EFC) Update
- ACIN I-76-15E Errata to Extended Foster Care (EFC) Update
- ACIN I-42-17 Revised Extended Foster Care Forms
- ACL 17-64 Changes in Placement Practices for Children, Youth, and NMDs in Foster Care
- ACL 18-89 Aid To Families With Dependent Children-Foster Care Home Based Family Care California Necessities Index Increases And Other Rate Increases; Rate Policy As To Youth Ages 18-21
- ACL 18-101 Eligibility for Extended Foster Care (EFC) for Married Youth and Youth Performing Non-Active Duty Military Service
- ACL 18-113 Extended Foster Care (EFC) for Otherwise Eligible Minors and Nonminors Whose Juvenile Court Adjudications are Vacated under PC 236.14 as Victims of Human Trafficking
- ACL 19-02 Clarification of Regulations Regarding Minor Recipients Living with Parent(s)
- ACL 17-83 Supervised Independent Living Placement (SILP) – Residing with a Parent
- ACL 17-93 Use of Infant Supplement Payment for THP+FC Programs
- ACL 19-31 Re-Entry of Eligible Nonminors to Extended Foster Care When Adoptive Parent(s) or Former Legal Guardian(s) No Longer Provide Support
- ACL 19-105 Placement Responsibility for Non-Minor Dependents (NMDs) in Extended Foster Care (EFC)
- ACIN I-68-17 CalFresh Treatment of NMD Foster Care Income
- California Department of Social Services Manual of Policies and Procedures, Division 45 Eligibility and Assistance Standards Manual
- DM 31-200 Child and Family Team (CFT) Meetings, Eff. 10-17-17
- DM 31-205 Youth Transition Meetings, Eff. 12-15-11
- DM 31-235 Transitional Independent Living Plan Agreement (TILP), Eff. 10-16-09
- DM 31-525 Independent Living Skills Program, Eff. 01-02-15
- DM 31-650 Extended Foster Care (AB 12) Policy, Eff. 6-20-19

CONTACT PERSON: First-line Supervisors and above may contact the Extended Foster Care Program Analyst with questions concerning this Department Manual Section.