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AFDC-FC REQUIREMENTS
AGE

SECTION 45-201.1

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I. AGE REQUIREMENTS

A. Age at Application

A child must be under age 18 when an application is initiated for Foster Care.

B. Evidence of Age (EAS 42-111.1)

The age of a Foster Care child must be verified. Acceptable evidence of the child's age includes, but is not limited to the following:

- a. Birth certificate or hospital's, physician's or midwife's birth record

Note: The birth certificate is the most commonly used document to verify age.

- b. Baptismal certificate or church record of baptism
- c. Confirmation papers or church record of confirmation
- d. School records
- e. Indian agency records (if applicable)
- f. Immigration papers or governmental record of immigration
- g. Naturalization papers or governmental record of naturalization
- h. Adoption decree
- i. Passport
- j. State or Federal census record
- k. The affidavit of an adult if it is based on his personal knowledge of facts which would determine the probable age of the child and it is not merely a statement of belief based on the child's personal appearance. The affidavit must contain statements of the circumstances upon which the affiant's knowledge is based.
- l. Entries in a family Bible or other genealogical record or memorandum of the child's age.



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C. Documentation of Age (EAS 42-111.2)

1. The verification used to establish the child’s age must be documented on the “Statement of Facts Supporting Eligibility for AFDC-FC” (FC 2) before it is scanned.
2. Original documents (i.e. birth certificate, SSN card) requested by our agency must be photocopied and forwarded to the Social Worker/Probation Officer to be retained in the services folder.
3. Original documents provided by someone else, i.e. a caretaker relative, must be photocopied and returned to the person who provided them.
4. If a document does not appear to be valid, additional evidence may be needed and/or a fraud referral may be indicated.

D. Original Birth Certificates

The Social Security Administration requires an original birth certificate when an application for a Social Security Number is requested. Foster Care EWs (FC EWs) are authorized to initiate an application for a Social Security Number (SSN) on behalf of a Foster Care child when they do not already have one.

1. If the child’s SSN is already on file and verified there is no need to request an original birth certificate for Foster Care. Any of the documents listed in section I. B. (a-1) above are allowable for proof of age.
2. If an application for a SSN is required and an original birth certificate is not available, the FC EW must request it.

Note: If other evidence of the child’s age is available and all other conditions of eligibility are met, Foster Care may be approved pending receipt of the birth certificate and the child’s SSN card.

3. Original birth certificates (along with other required verification) will be taken to the SSA office by the Foster Care Program Analyst or other designated Foster Care representative with the completed SSN Application form (SS-5). Social Security will complete the SSN application and return the original birth certificate to the county.
4. When the SSN card is received and verified, keep a copy of the SSN card and



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birth certificate for scanning and forward the originals to the SW/PO.

Note: The Foster Care EW and/or Clerk must search in Compass Pilot for an existing birth certificate copy that may be filed in a previous case. If necessary when no other age documentation is found, the worker may obtain birth verification from the Contra Costa County Recorder’s Office by completing and forwarding the Gen 220/220A and VER B forms.

II. SCHOOL ENROLLMENT AND ATTENDANCE -18 YEAR OLDS NOT ELIGIBLE FOR AB 12 (EAS 45-201.111;42-100)

A. Prior to Age 18

A child meets the age requirement for Foster Care eligibility until his/her 18th birthday.

B. Eligibility Up To Age 21

Effective January 1, 2012, when a Foster Care child reaches age 18, the youth may be eligible for the Extended Foster Care (EFC) program. The youth must meet one of the five education and employment conditions under EFC and when met may be eligible up to 21 years of age. (See AB 12 Desk Guide for EWs).

The following conditions apply only to KinGAP youth **not** eligible for extended benefits and youth with NRLG’s established through Probate Court. These youth must meet all of the following conditions:

1. Receiving Foster Care/KinGAP and attending high school or a vocational-technical training program on a full-time basis (as defined by the school) prior to reaching age 18.
2. Continues to meet all eligibility requirements.
3. Continues to reside in an approved placement (i.e., no break in cash assistance).
4. Attends, on a full-time basis, either a high school or, if the child has not completed high school, a vocational–technical training program which cannot result in a college degree. Full-time attendance must be defined and verified by the child’s school.
5. Is reasonably expected to complete either program before reaching age 19;

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verification is obtained by the completion of an IM3 FC School Verification form for the NRLG child and an IM 3 KG School Verification form for the KinGAP child. The IM 3 Cover letter should be used when sending these forms.

AND

6. The child and the placement agency have signed a “Mutual Agreement for 18-Year-Olds” (SOC 155B for NRLG cases or KG 1 for KinGAP) which documents the continued need for placement. The agreement shall be signed prior to or within the month the child reaches age 18.

Exception:

A mutual agreement is not required if the placement is due to a court order which remains in effect or if the child is not capable of making an informed agreement.

NOTE: An 18-year-old who has passed the GED examination is considered to have completed a generally accepted equivalent of high school, and therefore does not continue to be eligible for Foster Care until age 19; eligibility will cease effective the day prior to the date of completion.

C. Last Day of Payment for Graduates

1. Child will graduate prior to age 18

The basic rule is, a Foster Care child is eligible for payment until he/she reaches age 18. If the child will graduate prior to turning 18, Foster Care payments will continue until one day before the 18th birthday.

2. Child will graduate after turning age 18

If the child will graduate after turning 18, then the child must be enrolled full-time and be able to meet the graduation requirements prior to the 19th birthday. Eligibility for the Foster Care payment is affected by the projected date of the graduation program requirements.

Example #1: Child turns 18 and graduates after the 18th birthday; the last day of Foster Care is the day before graduation.

Example #2: Child graduates and then turns age 19; the last day of Foster Care is the day before graduation.

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Example #3: Child will turn 18 but will not graduate prior to the 19th birthday; the last day of Foster Care is the day before the 18th birthday.

II. REFERENCES

- EAS 42-100 Age
- EAS 42-101 Age Requirements
- [AB 12 Desk Guide for EWs](#)
- [DM 45-600 KinGAP](#)
- [IM 3 FC Desk Guide](#)