



## Office of the Child's Representative

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Greetings from the Office of the Child's Representative (OCR). We are very excited about Colorado's Foster Youth in Transition Program (FYTP) and the opportunities it provides us to collaborate with state and local departments and their attorneys to help eligible youth secure developmentally appropriate services and supports while making important decisions for themselves as they transition to adulthood. We know and appreciate that the state department has disseminated FYTP-related resources and many county departments have done the same. **In the spirit of collaboration, we would like to share some information and resources relevant to OCR-related questions you may have or may receive.**

Colorado Revised Statute 19-7-304(3) requires county departments to determine whether a youth is eligible for the FYTP within three days of the youth's request "and, if so, explain the transition program and provide the and provide the voluntary services agreement to the eligible youth."

- **What resources can county departments use to explain the FYTP to youth?** County departments are welcome to use the "Youth Frequently Asked Questions" document on OCR's FYTP webpage <https://coloradochildrep.org/youth-center/transition-program/> to explain the FYTP to youth. This youth-friendly document explains youth choices and rights in the FYTP, services and supports available to youth participating in the FYTP, FYTP eligibility requirements, and next steps related to the FYTP.

Upon entering a voluntary services agreement with an eligible youth, Colorado Revised Statute 19-7-306(1)(b) requires a county department to "make a referral in writing to the [OCR] and provide the youth with the contact information for the [OCR]."

- **How should county departments make a written referral to the OCR?** County departments can submit a referral via the referral form on OCR's FYTP webpage <https://coloradochildrep.org/youth-center/transition-program/>. After you complete a referral, you will receive an email indicating that that the form was submitted and containing the information provided in the referral.
- **What OCR contact information should county departments provide to youth?** Please provide youth my name, along with the contact information in the signature block of this letter. Please email me if you would like me to mail you copies of my business card that you can provide directly to youth.

When a county department determines a youth is not eligible for the FYTP, Colorado Revised Statute 19-7-304(3) requires the county department to "notify the youth of the county department's determination, the reasons for such determination, how to appeal a denial of eligibility, and provide contact information for the [OCR]."

- **What OCR contact information should county departments provide to youth when county departments determine that youth are not eligible for the FYTP?** Please provide youth my name and the contact information in the signature block of this letter. Please email me if you would like me to mail you copies of my business card that you can provide directly to youth.

**Where can county departments look for additional FYTP resources created by the OCR?**

- OCR's FYTP webpage <https://coloradochildrep.org/youth-center/transition-program/> contains many helpful resources. As mentioned above, one resource on OCR's FYTP webpage is a youth-friendly two-pager outlining youth choices and rights in the FYTP, services and supports available to youth participating in the FYTP, FYTP eligibility requirements, and next steps related to the FYTP. Please feel free to share these resources with youth and others.
- Please reach out to me at the contact information in the signature block of this letter or email [info@coloradochildrep.org](mailto:info@coloradochildrep.org) for additional resources or trainings. OCR and I would love to continue to spread the word about Colorado's FYTP, an amazing program which empowers older youth who are currently residing or previously resided in foster care to make important decisions about their lives while receiving services and supports as they transition to adulthood.

Thank you for everything you do for Colorado children/youth and families.

Sincerely,

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