

# **COLORADO'S FOSTER YOUTH IN TRANSITION PROGRAM**

*An opportunity to make important decisions about YOUR life and receive services and supports!*

## **Some of YOUR choices and rights in the Foster Youth in Transition Program**

YOU decide whether to participate in the program.

YOU decide when to stop participating in the program.

YOU have a say in the services and supports YOU receive in the program.

YOU keep YOUR adult rights and responsibilities, like YOUR rights and responsibilities to decide whether to agree to medical care, sign contracts, and keep accounts with financial institutions like banks.

YOU get an attorney to represent what YOU want to happen in YOUR program case.

If you had a GAL in a prior dependency and neglect (D&N) case, YOU decide whether to keep your GAL as counsel or have a new attorney appointed as YOUR counsel.



## **Some services and supports available to YOU in the Foster Youth in Transition Program**

Must:

be based on what YOU want and need, and

fit YOUR developmental level

Can include help:

enrolling in Medicaid and other benefits;

getting safe, affordable, and stable housing;

getting a job or financial support;

getting information about relatives and siblings (if available and appropriate);

getting important documents and records;

getting a driver's license or another ID;

reaching your educational goals;

getting your criminal records expunged; and

getting Special Immigrant Juvenile Status.



Colorado Office of the  
Child's Representative

## YOU can participate in the Foster Youth in Transition Program if:



You are  
- at least 18 years old  
- but not yet 21 years old (or older than 21 to special COVID laws);



AND You were living  
- in foster care on or after your 16th birthday (through a delinquency case or a dependency and neglect case, or  
- with unlicensed care providers (like relatives) on or after your 16th birthday and a court made a finding that you were dependent and neglected;



AND You  
- would like to enter into a voluntarily services agreement with a county department or  
- have already entered into a voluntary services agreement with a county department and you are complying with most of it;



AND you are:  
- completing high school or a program that will lead to a qualification like a high school diploma.  
- attending a college, university, or educational program related to employment.,  
- working part-time or full-time at least 80 hours a month,  
- participating in a program or activity that helps you get employment, or  
- or unable to participate in the above because of a medical condition.

*But wait! The requirements in the blue rectangle do not apply until 10/1/2021!*

## Some differences between D&N cases and Foster Youth in Transition Program cases

Question	D&N Case	Foster Youth in Transition Program Case
Who starts the case?	The department.	The department or YOU.
Are parents a part of the case?	Yes.	No.
What kind of attorney do you get?	A GAL who investigates, decides, and fights for your best interest. A GAL may share things you tell your GAL if sharing those things is in your best interests.	Counsel who fights for what YOU want to happen in your program case. Most things YOU tell YOUR counsel are confidential, meaning that YOUR counsel can't share what YOU said. YOU can allow your attorney to share what YOU say in some circumstances.
What is the case about?	What is best for you.	More driven by YOU and YOUR choices.
Where can you live?	Fewer places due to strict state laws and rules.	More places due to more flexible state laws and rules.



## Some next steps YOU can take related to the Foster Youth in Transition Program

If you think you meet the Foster Youth in Transition Program participation requirements listed at the top of this page OR if you want to learn more about the Foster Youth in Transition Program, you can:

1. contact the county department where you live, or
2. send an email to the Colorado Office of the Child's Representative (OCR) [info@coloradochildrep.org](mailto:info@coloradochildrep.org).  
OCR will respond as soon as possible to chat with you or even get an attorney to represent you!