

# Checklist for Youth 16 and Older

## NOTICE/APPOINTMENT OF ATTORNEY

- Did youth receive timely notice of this hearing?
- What efforts were made to encourage the youth's attendance?
- Has the youth been notified of a release of custody date (30 days prior to exit)? Does the youth consent to the release?
- What is the youth's position on the issues in today's hearing?
- Should an attorney be appointed for the youth?
  - Are the youth and GAL in agreement?
  - Are there other reasons an attorney appointment should be considered?

## PRESENT CUSTODY STATUS

- What is the custody expiration date?
- What is the permanency goal established by the court? Is goal still appropriate?
- Where is the youth placed?
- If goal is APPLA, what on-going efforts have been made to find an adoptive home, a guardianship home, or placement with a fit and willing relative?

## YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

- Has the youth engaged in developing a "Transition Plan," with the department (90 days before exit)?
- Has the youth engaged in case planning for permanency? What is the goal?
- How will the youth obtain documents (birth cert., social security card, medical records, driver's license, ID card, CIB) upon exit?

## SUPPORT SYSTEM

- Does the youth have supportive adults to rely on after expiration of custody (financial/emotional/legal)?
- Does the youth know how to contact relatives?
- Has the youth been given contact info for siblings?
- Has youth been counseled about the benefits of remaining in custody past age 18?

## EDUCATION GOALS & STATUS

- What is the youth's education goal (high school diploma, GED, vocational/technical school)?
- What are youth's goals beyond high school?
- Is youth eligible for OCS scholarships and/or Indian education scholarships or grants?

## EMPLOYMENT GOALS

- What is youth's current employment status?
- What are the youth's employment goals?

## FINANCIAL

- What are the youth's current sources of income?
- What additional financial support is needed?
- What is the plan for PFD or other trust funds being released?
- Has the youth received their most recent credit report?
- Is youth eligible for other public benefits or entitlements? Have they been applied for?
- Is youth eligible for Independent Living Funds?
- What special expenses are anticipated in adulthood (e.g., services needed)?

## HOUSING

- Where will the youth live after leaving care?
- What else is needed to insure adequate housing?

## HEALTH CARE

- Are the youth's health needs being met?
- Is the youth receiving Medicaid?
- Will medical insurance coverage continue beyond the expiration of custody?
- What is the plan for addressing medical/mental health needs in adulthood?
- If substance abuse counseling is needed, how will it be provided?
- Does the youth have a health care directive?
- Is the Native youth signed up or registered with the Indian Health Service?

## YOUTH WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

- If youth needs a guardian or conservator, has petition been filed?
- Have youth's current mental health providers met with the adult mental health providers?
- Is SSI applicable; has it been applied for; who would be the representative payee? Will it be in effect before custody expires?
- If the youth has a large PFD trust, has the Miller Trust/Medicaid Trust been established?
- Does this youth have a Developmental Disability Waiver or FASD Waiver? If so, what agency will provide services?

## YOUTH PLACED AT RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES

- Has the discharge plan been discussed with the youth?
- Has the facility been working with the youth on life skills training?
- Is the youth taking psychotropic medications? Does the youth consent?
- Have the residential care facility and the next placement developed a transition plan?

**Quick Reference Guide  
Relevant Laws to Older Foster Youth in Alaska**

	<b>Requirement</b>	<b>Statute or Rule</b>
<b>Youth Rights</b>	Youth are entitled to appointment of an attorney if in the youth's welfare, or the interests of justice require the appointment.	AS 47.10.050(a); CINA R. 12
	Youth shall be afforded the opportunity to be present and to be heard at the permanency hearing.	AS 47.10.080(f)
	Youth or GAL may waive youth's right to be present at particular hearings; court may excuse presence if detrimental to youth.	CINA R. 3(b)
	Youth ages 14+ are allowed two trusted adults (separate from caseworker and foster parent) to participate in case planning and permanency planning and to advocate for them.	AS 47.10.086(h)
<b>Permanency</b>	At every permanency hearing for youth ages 16+, the court must make written findings related to services needed to assist the youth to make the transition from foster care to independent living or adult protective services.	CINA R. 17.2(e)(5)
	OCS must continue to search for an adoptive or guardianship home until a youth reaches age 21.	AS 47.14.100(n)
	OCS can only recommend APPLA as a permanent plan if (1) youth is 16 or older; (2) OCS has unsuccessfully made intensive efforts to find a permanent placement; (3) after considering all other permanency options, there is a compelling reason that APPLA is most appropriate.	AS 47.14.100(o)
	Court can only order APPLA as permanent plan after considering whether there is a compelling reason and whether OCS has recommended it.	AS 47.10.080(l)(2)(C)
<b>Placement</b>	For youth ages 16 and older, transitional living arrangements, including dorms, are authorized.	AS 47.14.100(a)
	Emergency Custody: OCS must attempt to follow placement preferences.	AS 47.10.142(i)
	Transfer of Placement: OCS must search for placement with relative or family friend.	AS 47.10.080(s)
<b>Custody, Release &amp; Re-Entry</b>	Court can commit youth to state custody up to age 19 without youth's consent; custody can be extended to age 21 if youth consents.	AS 47.10.080(c)(1)
	OCS must provide 30 days' notice to court and parties (including youth) when custody is due to expire and OCS is not seeking to extend custody.	AS 47.14.100(q)
	Youth ages 19+ must consent to release of custody.	AS 47.14.100(p)
	Youth may re-enter OCS custody under certain conditions.	AS 47.10.080(v)
<b>Access to Information</b>	As parties to case, youth are entitled access to their OCS records and court records.	CINA Rules 2(l); 8(c)(1); 22(a)
	When youth are released from custody, OCS must provide them with (or assist them in obtaining) documents, including birth certificate, social security card, medical records, driver's license or ID card, CIB card.	AS 47.18.320(d)
<b>Financial</b>	PFD trust can be released to youth at age 21, or when 18 and no longer in custody, or by court order when it's in their best interest.	AS 47.10.115(b)
	Dividends and other distributions held by a youth's Native corporation must be released to the youth at age 18, whether or not still in custody.	AS 10.06.961(c)
<b>Education</b>	Placement changes: Youth remains in same school through the term if it's in their best interest. OCS pays transportation if federal and school district funds are unavailable.	AS 47.10.080(y)