
MINOR PARENTS IN THE CUSTODY OF THE DEPARTMENT GUIDELINES

65C-31.005(11); 65C-28.010; AND 65C-30.016 F.A.C.

Youth who are pregnant or parenting shall be provided with an equal opportunity to participate in IL services and post-18 services. The service worker shall assist these youth with accessing needed services such as prenatal care, daycare, other public benefits and appropriate housing. 65C-31.005(11) F.A.C.

Requirements

- When a minor child under the department's supervision becomes pregnant, service worker shall:
 - Assist in developing a plan for future
 - Assist in making the choice whether to keep the child or relinquish for adoptive placement. 65C-30.016(5) F.A.C.
- Minor parent and child shall reside together unless the younger child's safety is "at a substantial risk" or there is no facility to house both. 65C-28.010(1) F.A.C.; but 65C-30.016 F.A.C. states that the placement "shall be, unless contrary to the best interests of the infant, in the same foster home or residential program"
 - To strengthen attachment, provide child-caring skills, 65C-30.016(5)(b) F.A.C.
- Dependency petition on younger child not to be filed unless there are separate grounds
- If minor parent in SIL, and their child lives with them, the minor parent is not eligible for additional subsidy for child
- service worker shall help minor parent in applying for other assistance
- Minor parent shall be have equal opportunity to participate in IL services
- service worker shall provide to minor parent information about services needed for appropriate care of child and stability of housing
- service worker shall assist minor parent by proving information on educational services upon exit from foster care
- If mother's emotional or mental capacity in question or mother has juvenile delinquency history involving acts of violence, the service worker shall:
 - Obtain psychological evaluation
 - Determine if mother can provide safe environment for the child
- Youth who are receiving SSI can petition for a waiver of the state deducting the cost of care in order to use it for the cost of caring for the child