



NOTICE OF DISCHARGE FROM EXTENDED FOSTER CARE

Name

Date of Birth

Date of Notice

Effective Date of Discharge

This is a notice of your discharge (termination) from the Extended Foster Care (EFC) Program. After monitoring your transition plan, the goals outlined in your transition plan, and your progress towards meeting those goals, your case manager and case manager supervisor have determined that you are no longer eligible for (EFC), and therefore, you will no longer receive any of the benefits available through EFC. **Depending on the type of approved living arrangement, you may have to move out of your approved living arrangement on the effective date of discharge, unless you appeal this decision before the effective date of discharge.**

Please review this notice carefully as it outlines the reason(s) for this decision, information on the dispute resolution procedure, if available, and right to request a fair hearing if you disagree with this decision. This notice also includes a brief description of other services that may be available to you from your case manager.

REASONS FOR DISCHARGE

_____ You are now 21 years old, and no longer meet the eligibility requirements for EFC; OR you are a young adult with a disability and have reached the age of 22.

_____ You have not maintained participation in any one of the following activities, and are no longer eligible for EFC:

- Enrolled in and attending high school
- Working towards a GED or its equivalent
- Enrolled in an institution that provides postsecondary or vocational education
- Employed/self-employed at a minimum of 80 hours per month
- Participating in another activity designed to promote or remove barriers to employment
- You have not documented a condition that limits your participation in any of these listed activities.

_____ You have not resided in your approved living arrangement as detailed in your transition plan and/or you did not communicate with your caregiver or case manager regarding absence from your approved living arrangement, as detailed in your transition plan.

_____ Your case manager has determined that you are no longer eligible for EFC based on other reasons and findings:

HOW TO CHALLENGE, OR CONTEST, THIS DECISION TO DISCHARGE YOU FROM THE EXTENDED FOSTER CARE PROGRAM

If you wish to challenge or contest any of the information above, you have the right to do so. As described below, you can do one or both of the following: use the alternative dispute resolution procedure, if one is available through your community-based care agency; request a fair hearing through the Department of Children and Families.

1. **Alternative Dispute Resolution Procedure (“ADR”).** This is a procedure that is less formal than a fair hearing. Your case manager will give you specific information about what this procedure is and how quickly a decision can be made. If you request to use this ADR procedure and you ask to do this before the date of discharge that is listed at the beginning of this notice, then you cannot be discharged from extended foster care until 10 days after the written decision of the ADR, in the event the decision to discharge you is approved. The decision made through this alternative dispute resolution procedure is not final; after this decision, you can still chose to request a fair hearing. If you ask for a fair hearing before the date of discharge that will be shown on the notice of the decision of the ADR, you can stay in Extended Foster Care until after you get the decision from the fair hearing.
2. **Request a Fair Hearing.** This is a more formal procedure, in which the Department of Children and Families will have a legal representative. You can ask for a fair hearing as your only challenge or you can first use the ADR procedure, and then ask for a fair hearing if you are not satisfied with the decision of the ADR. If you want to have a fair hearing, you must request this within 30 days after the date of this notice. The date of the notice is at the beginning of the notice. **Please note:** Even if you ask for a fair hearing within the 30 days of the date of the notice, you will still be discharged from EFC unless you ask for the fair hearing before the effective date of discharge, which is shown at the beginning of this notice. The best way to ask for a fair hearing is by using the “Request for Fair Hearing on Application Denial or Discharge from the Extended Foster Care Program; or on Denial, Termination, or Reduction of PESS or Aftercare Services Benefits”, CF-FSP 5380, Nov. 2013. That form is attached. You can also talk to your case manager to tell him or her you want a fair hearing. The same time frames apply.

OTHER SERVICES YOU MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR

Extended Foster Care. You can re-apply for EFC at any time, if you are under 21 and you meet the eligibility requirements, which include participating in or being willing to participate in school, work or other programs as set forth in Section 39.6251(2), F.S. There is NO limit on the number of times you can leave or be discharged from the program, and re-enter the program if you are eligible to participate.

Aftercare Services. You may qualify for Aftercare Services, which are temporary supports and services available to help you during your transition to independence. If you accept the decision to discharge you from extended foster care, or you lose your challenge to the decision, Aftercare Services can help you get set up for living independently.

Postsecondary Supports and Services (“PESS”). This program is to help students in post-secondary education, i.e., college or vocational education. To qualify, you must have a high school diploma, GED, or its equivalent and can maintain enrollment at a college or other post-secondary institution for at least 9 credit hours.

Your case manager will have all the information you need for you to make the right decision.

Case Manager:

_____	_____	_____
Name (Print)	Signature	Date
_____		_____
Phone	Email	

Case Manager Supervisor:

_____	_____	_____
Name (Print)	Signature	Date
_____		_____
Phone	Email	

I acknowledge that I have received notice of my discharge as well as my rights to dispute this decision and the available processes, and guidance on other programs I may be eligible for. I understand that it is now my responsibility to contact my case manager to ask for help with the appeals process, and to ask for information and help in applying for other services which may be available to me.

_____	_____
Young Adult Signature	Date

Attachments: CF-FSP 5379 Due Process Rights for Young Adults Formerly in Foster Care

CF-FSP 5380 Request for Fair Hearing on Application Denial or Discharge from the Extended Foster Care Program; or on Denial, Termination, or Reduction of PESS or Aftercare Services Benefits