



North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services | Division of Social Services

**Plan for Emancipation from Foster Care Custody**

Emancipation plans are developed with youth who will be emancipated from foster care within the next 90 days, either because they will have achieved the age of majority (age 18) or because they will be legally emancipated prior to the age of 18 (as outlined under N.C.G.S. § 7B-3500). The original signed document shall be given to the emancipating youth. A copy of this plan should be filed in the case record. The youth may request up to three copies of the plan to be distributed to persons of the youth’s choosing.

Name of Youth: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of first admission to out-of-home care: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of last admission to out-of-home care: \_\_\_\_\_

Estimated date of discharge from out-of-home care: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Plan: \_\_\_\_\_

**I. CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT FOR RESIDENTIAL SERVICES (CARS)**

Is the child welfare agency willing to offer a CARS agreement to this youth if he or she wishes to remain in school or vocational training?  Yes  Yes, with conditions  No

Explain: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Would the agency be willing to consider allowing this youth to return to agency placement responsibility by way of a CARS agreement at some point in the future, but before age 21?  Yes  Yes, with conditions  No

Explain: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**II. HEALTH INSURANCE**

This youth  is  is not eligible for the Extended Foster Care Medicaid Program as per the federal Affordable Care Act.

This individual has received information and assistance regarding application procedures for Medicaid or other state/federal funded health insurance.  Yes  No

This individual is scheduled to be enrolled in the Extended Foster Care Medicaid Program at age 18.  Yes  No

Do you currently have private health insurance that will continue beyond your eighteenth birthday?

Yes  No If so, with whom? \_\_\_\_\_ Policy Number: \_\_\_\_\_



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#### III. HOUSING

Where do you plan to live once you turn 18?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone or other contact information: \_\_\_\_\_

If this plan does not work out, where do you plan to live?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone or other contact information: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you interested in participating in a CARS agreement at this time?  Yes  No Youth initials: \_\_\_\_\_

#### IV. TRANSPORTATION

Will you have access to consistent transportation after discharge?  Yes  No

Do you own a car, truck, bicycle, motor scooter, or motorcycle?  Yes  No

Is the area where you plan to live on or near to a public bus line?  Yes  No

#### V. EMPLOYMENT / INCOME/CREDIT REPORT

Will you have income other than from employment?  Yes  No

Are you employed now?  Yes  No If so, where? \_\_\_\_\_

Will you have a job when you are discharged from foster care?  Yes  No



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Did the child welfare agency conduct a credit report check for you from all three credit bureaus (Equifax, Transunion and Experian) ?  Yes  No If, so, date of last check? \_\_\_\_\_

Were there any issues on your report(s)?  Yes  No If so, what were the issues? \_\_\_\_\_

How were the credit issues resolved? \_\_\_\_\_

If the child welfare agency did not conduct a credit report check for you, list date they plan to do the check \_\_\_\_\_.

(You are entitled to a credit report check from all three credit bureaus for each year you spend time in foster care between 14 and 17 years of age. You should also have a report check while you are on a CARS).

**VI. EDUCATIONAL PLANS**

How much farther do you want to go in school? (check all that apply)

- GED
- High School Diploma
- Adult High School Diploma through a community college
- Vocational Post-Secondary School
- Two-Year College
- Four-Year College
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Have you applied for any needed financial assistance for post-secondary school such as through the Pell Grant, Education Training Vouchers, and/or NC Reach Scholarships?

- Yes  No  In Process  Not Applicable

**VII. REFERRAL INFORMATION**

**JobLinks:** The WIOA program, through JobLinks, offers assistance with job placement, job coaching, apprenticeships, job training. One of the groups that receive preference is youth who were in foster care.

Local contact number: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Credit Reports:** Once you turn 18 years old, you are entitled to a free credit report on a yearly basis from each of the three credit bureaus (Equifax, Transunion and Experian). For more information on obtaining a free credit report visit the Federal Trade Commission consumer fact website at

<http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/pubs/consumer/credit/cre34.shtm>.



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**LINKS:** The LINKS program is available to you for services and resource until your 21<sup>st</sup> birthday. Contact the LINKS coordinator in your county of residence if you remain in North Carolina; if you move out of state, contact your home county, and ask for a referral to your new state of residence.

Local contact number: \_\_\_\_\_

LINKS Coordinator: \_\_\_\_\_

**Vocational Rehabilitation:** If you have a disabling condition that interferes with your ability to work, you may be eligible for Vocational Rehabilitation services. Disabling conditions may be physical, mental/emotional, or learning disabilities, which are diagnosed by a certified person. If you think you may have such a condition but are not diagnosed, VR can evaluate you to see if you qualify. VR services include training, adaptive equipment, job development and placement, job coaching, supported employment, job retention, and community based assessments. Job related services are provided without regard to income. For individuals with limited income, services can also include mental or physical restoration, transportation, home or job modifications, and other services.

Local contact number: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Housing:** If you need emergency housing, the closest homeless shelter is located at:

Local contact number: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

(If you aged out of foster care, LINKS funds are available to help you pay your deposits on an apartment, but you will need to have enough income to pay for monthly expenses).

**Education Training Vouchers (ETV) and NC Reach Scholarships:** You are likely to be eligible for scholarship assistance to help you attend postsecondary schools such as vocational schools (like beauty school, truck driving school, HVAC, bricklaying and other building trades) or college level courses. Applications are on-line at <http://www.ncreach.org/> and <http://www.statevoucher.org>. If you need help, contact the LINKS worker in your county.

Local contact number: \_\_\_\_\_

**Medicaid:** If you were in foster care custody on your 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, you are automatically eligible for Extended Foster Care Medicaid Benefits. You do have to apply for the benefits, and must apply for all Medicaid programs before being approved for EFCP. Your LINKS worker can help you with the application process.

Local contact number: \_\_\_\_\_

**Mental Health Services:** If you need counseling, medication follow-up, or other mental health services, public mental health services are available to you. Most of these services can be paid for with Medicaid.

Local contact number: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_



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**Public Health Services:** If you do not have a regular physician, much of your medical care can be secured through the public health agency in your community. Your Medicaid card will help pay for this. Many communities have physicians that will take Medicaid, which would assure treatment that is more consistent for you.

Local contact number: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Selective Service Registration:** If you are, a male ages 18 through 25 and living in the U.S., then you must register with Selective Service. It is the law. You can register at any U.S. Post Office and do not need a social security number. If you prefer, you can register on line at <https://www.sss.gov/regver/wfregistration.aspx>.

**Community Colleges:** North Carolina has a broad network of community colleges that provide training for employment, basic skills training, vocational, technical and academic courses to citizens who wish to improve their employability and earning capacity. There are community colleges and branches within 25 miles of every resident of North Carolina. For further information about community college programs near you, visit <http://www.nccommunitycolleges.edu>.

**Social community:** You are encouraged to seek out connections with other people who share your interests or beliefs, people who value you for *who you are*. Everyone needs a support community, and everyone finds that community in their own way. In addition to your family, friends and support people you have known while you are in foster care, you can build a strong social network by becoming involved in organizations or groups. For example, *faith communities* provide a way to connect with other people who share your spiritual beliefs. If you are not sure which one would "fit" you best, you can visit several faith communities and talk with others who attend or lead worship. Most churches, mosques, and temples are listed in the yellow pages of the telephone directory or you may do an internet search.

Most communities have *volunteer organizations* who would welcome your help, such as Habitat for Humanity, Meals on Wheels, and your local LINKS program. You can help others through your volunteer work while meeting others who share your interests. An internet search or a search of the local newspaper is likely to help you find places to volunteer. City sponsored *recreational programs* often include sports leagues as well as clubs with activities as diverse as bird watching, art, sports, music, book clubs, and hobbies.

**Leadership Opportunities:** Youth who were in foster care are encouraged to become a member of SaySo (Strong Able Youth Speaking Out). This group works together to influence laws and policies that have impact on youth in foster care. The SaySo website is <http://www.saysoinc.org>.

**Other Referral Resources:** There is a state network of resources that you can learn about by dialing 2-1-1 on your local phone. The State also has a Customer Service Center at 1-800-662-7030 to help you learn about other resources.



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We would like to stay in touch with you. LINKS services are available to you until your 21<sup>st</sup> birthday. Sometimes new benefits become available, and we would like to let you know about them. Please give us the name and contact information of people who will know how to contact you in the future.

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#### VIII. DOCUMENTS TO BE PROVIDED TO YOUTH AT DISCHARGE

- Original or certified copy of birth certificate
- Original or certified copy of Social Security card
- Copies of all Child Health Status (DSS-5243) Components and the latest complete Immunization Record
- Copies of all Child Education Status Components (DSS-5245) or Education Record Summary (Attached)
- Copies of any legal documents that the youth might need for employment or benefits, including verification of eligibility for Extended Foster Care Medicaid, legal residency documentation, etc.
- Driver's license or identification card
- Copies of any credit reports and documentation related to issues resolved on the credit report.
- The original and signed copy of this document

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Signature of Agency Director / Designee, Date

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Signature of Social Worker / LINKS Coordinator Date

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Signature of Emancipating Youth Date

County \_\_\_\_\_

**Education Record Summary**

Name of Emancipating Youth: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

**An official copy of the child/youth's complete school grades and/or transcript shall be attached to this document.**

Last grade completed as of: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Schools attended while in foster care custody, between \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_.

<u>Dates Attended</u>	<u>Name of School</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Telephone Number</u>	<u>Grade Point Average</u>

(Use additional sheets if necessary)