

Re-entry

Some youth who launch from care may need to return. In order to assist these youth, DCF allows eligible youth to return and re-enter care for educational or vocational or employment services which can lead to gainful employment. Youth who have left care without completing their secondary education are especially vulnerable are at most risk of living in poverty, being homeless or requiring the assistance from other state and federal agencies. When a youth needs to re-enter care, efforts are made to assist as soon as possible. Planning efforts focus on securing supports and building skills that will help the young adult successfully transition to adulthood.

If a youth applies for re-entry and is found eligible, he or she will be eligible to:

1. re-enter and follow an "Adolescent Services Service Agreement" (DCF-2166A), which will include the necessary steps to maintain eligibility; or
2. re-enter and enroll in an approved educational program;

Process for Requesting Re-entry Services

For re-entry into the Department, a youth must contact the DCF Careline to initiate the process.

DCF Careline Staff Duties:

- document the referral and submit the information to the Regional re-entry liaison; and
- conduct an in-state criminal background check

Regional re-entry liaison duties:

- review the request and closing summary;
- review hearing outcomes;
- contact the previous worker to begin planning;
- consult with the Post-Secondary Education staff of the secondary or post-secondary educational plan; and if applicable;
- contact and consult with the DMHAS or DDS liaison;
- contact applicant to schedule a conversation;
- develop plan to refer the youth for medical and behavioral health, substance abuse or educational evaluations or services;
- send the youth the DCF-2095, "Application for re-entry to Adolescent Services Program," by certified mail or email;
- document the re-entry request and outcome in the computer system; and
- obtain a Commissioner's waiver, if necessary, for policy exceptions

Youth Responsibilities:

- be willing to sign a DCF-2131(T), "Release of Information;"
- be willing to engage with educational, vocational, behavioral health or substance abuse assessments are recommended after re-entry.
- provide (proof of acceptance or enrollment) motivation to an educational or vocational program;
- provide secondary and post-secondary education documentation (e.g., transcripts, report cards, diploma);

After re-entry youth may need to provide additional information that would assist in educational planning.

Regional re-entry liaison Responsibilities:

- if case is accepted for re-entry, create a Voluntary Service re-entry intake in the computer system and assign the case to the Transitional Specialist;
- base Area Office assignment on the youth's input and location, the location where the youth would ultimately like to reside, and where he or she feels most connected and supported; and
- if the case is transferred to a new Area Office, convene a transfer meeting to include the Area Office Social Work Supervisor and Transitional Specialist.

Transitional Specialist Responsibilities:

- welcome the youth back to the Department;
- review all the information and documentation;
- explain to the youth the supports and the length of service and limitations;
- assess challenges and barriers that hindered the youth's successful launch from care;
- develop an "Adolescent Services Service Agreement" (DDCF-2166A); and
- provide supports.

Justice System Involvement

Youth requesting re-entry services who are coming directly from incarceration are required to agree to the following:

- sign a DCF-2166A that includes a statement that he or she will demonstrate an appropriate level of commitment and conduct that will allow him or her to benefit from any programs or services that may be offered; and
- provide orders to the re-entry coordinator.