

1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to independent living; amending s.  
3           39.013, F.S.; providing that when the court obtains  
4           jurisdiction over a child who has been found to be  
5           dependent, the court retains jurisdiction until the  
6           child reaches a certain age; providing exceptions;  
7           amending s. 39.6013, F.S.; conforming a cross-  
8           reference; creating s. 39.6035, F.S.; requiring the  
9           Department of Children and Families, the community-  
10          based care provider, and others to assist a child in  
11          developing a transition plan after the child reaches a  
12          specified age and requiring a meeting to develop the  
13          plan; specifying requirements and procedures for the  
14          transition plan; requiring periodic review of the  
15          transition plan; requiring the court to approve the  
16          transition plan before the child leaves foster care  
17          and the court terminates jurisdiction; creating s.  
18          39.6251, F.S.; providing definitions; providing that a  
19          young adult may remain in foster care under certain  
20          circumstances after attaining 18 years of age;  
21          specifying criteria for extended foster care;  
22          providing that the permanency goal for a young adult  
23          who chooses to remain in care transition from licensed  
24          care to independent living; specifying dates for  
25          eligibility for a young adult to return to extended  
26          foster care; providing for supervised living  
27          arrangements in extended foster care; authorizing a  
28          young adult to return to foster care under certain

29 | circumstances; specifying services that must be  
30 | provided to the young adult; directing the court to  
31 | retain jurisdiction and hold review hearings; amending  
32 | s. 39.701, F.S.; revising provisions relating to  
33 | judicial review hearings regarding the status of  
34 | children in foster care; providing criteria for review  
35 | hearings for children younger than 18 years of age;  
36 | providing criteria for review hearings for children 17  
37 | years of age; requiring the department to verify that  
38 | the child has certain documents; requiring the  
39 | department to update the case plan; providing for  
40 | review hearings for young adults in foster care;  
41 | amending s. 409.145, F.S.; requiring the department to  
42 | develop and implement a system of care for children in  
43 | foster care; specifying the goals of the foster care  
44 | system; requiring the department to assist foster care  
45 | caregivers to achieve quality parenting; specifying  
46 | the roles and responsibilities of caregivers, the  
47 | department, and others; providing for transition from  
48 | a caregiver; requiring information sharing; providing  
49 | for the adoption and use of a reasonable and prudent  
50 | parent standard; defining terms; providing for the  
51 | application for the standard of care; providing for  
52 | limiting liability of caregivers; specifying foster  
53 | parent room and board rates; authorizing community-  
54 | based care service providers to pay a supplemental  
55 | monthly room and board payment to foster parents for  
56 | providing certain services; directing the department

57 | to adopt rules; deleting obsolete provisions; amending  
58 | s. 409.1451, F.S.; providing for the Road-to-  
59 | Independence Program; providing legislative findings  
60 | and intent; providing for postsecondary services and  
61 | support; specifying aftercare services available to  
62 | certain young adults not in foster care; providing for  
63 | appeals of a determination of eligibility; providing  
64 | for portability of services across county lines and  
65 | between lead agencies; providing for accountability;  
66 | requiring a report to the Legislature; creating the  
67 | Independent Living Services Advisory Council;  
68 | providing for membership and specifying the duties and  
69 | functions of the council; requiring reports and  
70 | recommendations; providing for a young adult to retain  
71 | personal property; requiring the department to  
72 | document enrollment of eligible young adults in  
73 | Medicaid; directing the department to adopt rules;  
74 | amending s. 409.175, F.S.; allowing young adults  
75 | remaining in care to be considered in the total number  
76 | of children placed in a foster home; amending s.  
77 | 409.903, F.S.; conforming a cross-reference; providing  
78 | for a transfer of services; requiring the department  
79 | to acquire postsecondary educational campus coaching  
80 | positions for certain purposes; providing for a  
81 | network coordinator to provide oversight; providing  
82 | appropriations; providing effective dates.

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84 | Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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Section 1. Subsection (2) of section 39.013, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

39.013 Procedures and jurisdiction; right to counsel.—

(2) The circuit court has exclusive original jurisdiction of all proceedings under this chapter, of a child voluntarily placed with a licensed child-caring agency, a licensed child-placing agency, or the department, and of the adoption of children whose parental rights have been terminated under this chapter. Jurisdiction attaches when the initial shelter petition, dependency petition, or termination of parental rights petition, or a petition for an injunction to prevent child abuse issued pursuant to s. 39.504, is filed or when a child is taken into the custody of the department. The circuit court may assume jurisdiction over any such proceeding regardless of whether the child was in the physical custody of both parents, was in the sole legal or physical custody of only one parent, caregiver, or some other person, or was not in the physical or legal custody of any person when the event or condition occurred that brought the child to the attention of the court. When the court obtains jurisdiction of any child who has been found to be dependent, the court shall retain jurisdiction, unless relinquished by its order, until the child reaches 21 ~~18~~ years of age, with the following exceptions:

(a) If a young adult chooses to leave foster care upon reaching 18 years of age, the court shall relinquish jurisdiction.

112        (b) If a young adult does not meet the eligibility  
113 requirements to remain in foster care under s. 39.6251, the  
114 court shall relinquish jurisdiction.

115        (c) However, If a young adult ~~youth~~ petitions the court at  
116 any time before his or her 19th birthday requesting the court's  
117 continued jurisdiction, the juvenile court may retain  
118 jurisdiction under this chapter for a period not to exceed 1  
119 year following the young adult's ~~youth's~~ 18th birthday for the  
120 purpose of determining whether appropriate ~~aftercare support,~~  
121 ~~Road to Independence Program, transitional support, mental~~  
122 ~~health, and developmental disability services~~ that were required  
123 to be provided to the young adult, ~~to the extent otherwise~~  
124 ~~authorized by law, have been provided to the formerly dependent~~  
125 ~~child who was in the legal custody of the department immediately~~  
126 ~~before his or her 18th birthday~~ were provided.

127        (d) If a petition for special immigrant juvenile status  
128 and an application for adjustment of status have been filed on  
129 behalf of a foster child and the petition and application have  
130 not been granted by the time the child reaches 18 years of age,  
131 the court may retain jurisdiction over the dependency case  
132 solely for the purpose of allowing the continued consideration  
133 of the petition and application by federal authorities. Review  
134 hearings for the child shall be set solely for the purpose of  
135 determining the status of the petition and application. The  
136 court's jurisdiction terminates upon the final decision of the  
137 federal authorities. Retention of jurisdiction in this instance  
138 does not affect the services available to a young adult under s.

139 409.1451. The court may not retain jurisdiction of the case  
 140 after the immigrant child's 22nd birthday.

141 Section 2. Subsection (6) of section 39.6013, Florida  
 142 Statutes, is amended to read:

143 39.6013 Case plan amendments.—

144 (6) The case plan is deemed amended as to the child's  
 145 health, mental health, and education records required by s.  
 146 39.6012 when the child's updated health and education records  
 147 are filed by the department under s. 39.701(2)(a) ~~39.701(8)(a)~~.

148 Section 3. Section 39.6035, Florida Statutes, is created  
 149 to read:

150 39.6035 Transition plan.—

151 (1) During the 180-day period after a child reaches 17  
 152 years of age, the department and the community-based care  
 153 provider, in collaboration with the caregiver and any other  
 154 individual who the child would like to include, shall assist the  
 155 child in developing a transition plan. The required transition  
 156 plan is in addition to standard case management requirements.  
 157 The transition plan must address specific options for the child  
 158 to use in obtaining services, including housing, health  
 159 insurance, education, and workforce support and employment  
 160 services. The plan must also consider establishing and  
 161 maintaining naturally occurring mentoring relationships and  
 162 other personal support services. The transition plan may be as  
 163 detailed as the child chooses. In developing the transition  
 164 plan, the department and the community-based provider shall:

165 (a) Provide the child with the documentation required  
 166 pursuant to s. 39.701(3).

167        (b) Coordinate the transition plan with the independent  
168 living provisions in the case plan and, for a child with a  
169 disability, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act  
170 transition plan.

171        (2) The department and the child shall schedule a time,  
172 date, and place for a meeting to assist the child in drafting  
173 the transition plan. The time, date, and place must be  
174 convenient for the child and any individual who the child would  
175 like to include. This meeting shall be conducted in the child's  
176 primary language.

177        (3) The transition plan shall be reviewed periodically  
178 with the child, the department, and other individuals of the  
179 child's choice and updated when necessary before each judicial  
180 review so long as the child or young adult remains in care.

181        (4) If a child is planning to leave care upon reaching 18  
182 years of age, the transition plan must be approved by the court  
183 before the child leaves care and the court terminates  
184 jurisdiction.

185        Section 4. Section 39.6251, Florida Statutes, is created  
186 to read:

187        39.6251 Continuing care for young adults.-

188        (1) As used in this section, the term "child" means an  
189 individual who has not attained 21 years of age and the term  
190 "young adult" means an individual who has attained 18 years of  
191 age but who has not attained 21 years of age.

192        (2) The primary goal for a child in care is permanency. A  
193 child who is living in licensed care on his or her 18th birthday  
194 and who has not achieved permanency under s. 39.621 is eligible

195 to remain in licensed care under the jurisdiction of the court  
196 and in the care of the department. A child is eligible to remain  
197 in licensed care if he or she is:

198 (a) Completing secondary education or a program leading to  
199 an equivalent credential;

200 (b) Enrolled in an institution that provides postsecondary  
201 or vocational education;

202 (c) Participating in a program or activity designed to  
203 promote or eliminate barriers to employment;

204 (d) Employed for at least 80 hours per month; or

205 (e) Unable to participate in programs or activities listed  
206 in paragraphs (a)-(d) full time due to a physical, intellectual,  
207 emotional, or psychiatric condition that limits participation.

208 Any such barrier to participation must be supported by  
209 documentation in the child's case file or school or medical  
210 records of a physical, intellectual, or psychiatric condition  
211 that impairs the child's ability to perform one or more life  
212 activities. This decision is to be made by the department, and  
213 is subject to judicial review.

214 (3) The permanency goal for a young adult who chooses to  
215 remain in care is transition from licensed care to independent  
216 living.

217 (4) (a) The young adult must reside in a supervised living  
218 environment that is approved by the department or a community-  
219 based care lead agency. The young adult shall live independently  
220 but in an environment in which he or she is provided  
221 supervision, case management, and supportive services by the  
222 department or lead agency. Such an environment must offer



223 developmentally appropriate freedom and responsibility to  
224 prepare the young adult for adulthood. For the purposes of this  
225 subsection, a supervised living arrangement may include a  
226 licensed foster home, licensed group home, college dormitory,  
227 shared housing, apartment, or another housing arrangement if the  
228 arrangement is approved by the community-based care lead agency  
229 and is acceptable to the young adult, with first choice being a  
230 licensed foster home. A young adult may continue to reside with  
231 the same licensed foster family or group care provider with whom  
232 he or she was residing at the time he or she reached the age of  
233 18 years.

234 (b) Before approving the residential setting in which the  
235 young adult will live, the department or community-based care  
236 lead agency must ensure that:

237 1. The young adult will be provided with a level of  
238 supervision consistent with his or her individual education,  
239 health care needs, permanency plan, and independent living goals  
240 as assessed by the department or lead agency with input from the  
241 young adult. Twenty-four hour onsite supervision is not  
242 required; however, 24-hour crisis intervention and support must  
243 be available.

244 2. The young adult will live in an independent living  
245 environment that offers, at a minimum, life skills instruction,  
246 counseling, educational support, employment preparation and  
247 placement, and development of support networks. The  
248 determination of the type and duration of services shall be  
249 based on the young adult's assessed needs, interests, and input

250 and must be consistent with the goals set in the young adult's  
251 case plan.

252 (5) Eligibility for a young adult to remain in extended  
253 foster care ends on the earliest of the dates that the young  
254 adult:

255 (a) Reaches 21 years of age or, in the case of a young  
256 adult with a disability, reaches 22 years of age;

257 (b) Leaves care to live in a permanent home consistent  
258 with his or her permanency plan; or

259 (c) Knowingly and voluntarily withdraws his or her consent  
260 to participate in extended care. Withdrawal of consent to  
261 participate in extended care shall be verified by the court  
262 pursuant to s. 39.701, unless the young adult refuses to  
263 participate in any further court proceeding.

264 (6) A young adult who has reached 18 years of age but is  
265 not yet 21 years of age and who has left care may return to care  
266 by applying to the community-based care lead agency for  
267 readmission. The community-based care lead agency shall readmit  
268 the young adult if he or she continues to meet the eligibility  
269 requirements of this section.

270 (a) The department shall develop a standard procedure and  
271 application packet for readmission to care to be used by all  
272 community-based care lead agencies.

273 (b) Within 30 days after the young adult has been  
274 readmitted to care, the community-based care lead agency shall  
275 assign a case manager to update the case plan and the transition  
276 plan and to arrange for the required services. Such activities  
277 shall be undertaken in consultation with the young adult. The

278 department shall petition the court to reinstate jurisdiction  
279 over the young adult.

280 (7) During each period of time that a young adult is in  
281 care, the community-based care lead agency shall provide regular  
282 case management reviews that must include at least monthly  
283 contact with the case manager. If a young adult lives outside  
284 the service area of his or her community-based care lead agency,  
285 monthly contact may occur by telephone.

286 (8) During the time that a young adult is in care, the  
287 court shall maintain jurisdiction to ensure that the department  
288 and the lead agencies are providing services and coordinate  
289 with, and maintain oversight of, other agencies involved in  
290 implementing the young adult's case plan, individual education  
291 plan, and transition plan. The court shall review the status of  
292 the young adult at least every 6 months and hold a permanency  
293 review hearing at least annually. The court may appoint a  
294 guardian ad litem or continue the appointment of a guardian ad  
295 litem with the young adult's consent. The young adult or any  
296 other party to the dependency case may request an additional  
297 hearing or review.

298 (9) The department shall establish a procedure by which a  
299 young adult may appeal a determination of eligibility to remain  
300 in care that was made by a community-based care lead agency. The  
301 procedure must be readily accessible to young adults, must  
302 provide for timely decisions, and must provide for an appeal to  
303 the department. The decision of the department constitutes final  
304 agency action and is reviewable by the court as provided in s.  
305 120.68.

306 Section 5. Section 39.701, Florida Statutes, is amended to  
307 read:

308 39.701 Judicial review.—

309 (1) GENERAL PROVISIONS.—

310 (a) The court shall have continuing jurisdiction in  
311 accordance with this section and shall review the status of the  
312 child at least every 6 months as required by this subsection or  
313 more frequently if the court deems it necessary or desirable.

314 (b) The court shall retain jurisdiction over a child  
315 returned to his or her parents for a minimum period of 6 months  
316 following the reunification, but, at that time, based on a  
317 report of the social service agency and the guardian ad litem,  
318 if one has been appointed, and any other relevant factors, the  
319 court shall make a determination as to whether supervision by  
320 the department and the court's jurisdiction shall continue or be  
321 terminated.

322 (c) 1.~~(2)(a)~~ The court shall review the status of the child  
323 and shall hold a hearing as provided in this part at least every  
324 6 months until the child reaches permanency status. The court  
325 may dispense with the attendance of the child at the hearing,  
326 but may not dispense with the hearing or the presence of other  
327 parties to the review unless before the review a hearing is held  
328 before a citizen review panel.

329 2.~~(b)~~ Citizen review panels may conduct hearings to review  
330 the status of a child. The court shall select the cases  
331 appropriate for referral to the citizen review panels and may  
332 order the attendance of the parties at the review panel  
333 hearings. However, any party may object to the referral of a

334 case to a citizen review panel. Whenever such an objection has  
335 been filed with the court, the court shall review the substance  
336 of the objection and may conduct the review itself or refer the  
337 review to a citizen review panel. All parties retain the right  
338 to take exception to the findings or recommended orders of a  
339 citizen review panel in accordance with Rule 1.490(h), Florida  
340 Rules of Civil Procedure.

341 3.~~(e)~~ Notice of a hearing by a citizen review panel must  
342 be provided as set forth in paragraph (f) ~~subsection (5)~~. At the  
343 conclusion of a citizen review panel hearing, each party may  
344 propose a recommended order to the chairperson of the panel.  
345 Thereafter, the citizen review panel shall submit its report,  
346 copies of the proposed recommended orders, and a copy of the  
347 panel's recommended order to the court. The citizen review  
348 panel's recommended order must be limited to the dispositional  
349 options available to the court in paragraph (2) (d) ~~subsection~~  
350 ~~(10)~~. Each party may file exceptions to the report and  
351 recommended order of the citizen review panel in accordance with  
352 Rule 1.490, Florida Rules of Civil Procedure.

353 (d) 1.~~(3) (a)~~ The initial judicial review hearing must be  
354 held no later than 90 days after the date of the disposition  
355 hearing or after the date of the hearing at which the court  
356 approves the case plan, whichever comes first, but in no event  
357 shall the review be held later than 6 months after the date the  
358 child was removed from the home. Citizen review panels may ~~shall~~  
359 not conduct more than two consecutive reviews without the child  
360 and the parties coming before the court for a judicial review.

361        2.~~(b)~~ If the citizen review panel recommends extending the  
362 goal of reunification for any case plan beyond 12 months from  
363 the date the child was removed from the home, the case plan was  
364 adopted, or the child was adjudicated dependent, whichever date  
365 came first, the court must schedule a judicial review hearing to  
366 be conducted by the court within 30 days after receiving the  
367 recommendation from the citizen review panel.

368        3.~~(e)~~ If the child is placed in the custody of the  
369 department or a licensed child-placing agency for the purpose of  
370 adoptive placement, judicial reviews must be held at least every  
371 6 months until the adoption is finalized.

372        4.~~(d)~~ If the department and the court have established a  
373 formal agreement that includes specific authorization for  
374 particular cases, the department may conduct administrative  
375 reviews instead of the judicial reviews for children in out-of-  
376 home care. Notices of such administrative reviews must be  
377 provided to all parties. However, an administrative review may  
378 not be substituted for the first judicial review, and in every  
379 case the court must conduct a judicial review at least every 6  
380 months. Any party dissatisfied with the results of an  
381 administrative review may petition for a judicial review.

382        5.~~(e)~~ The clerk of the circuit court shall schedule  
383 judicial review hearings in order to comply with the mandated  
384 times cited in this section.

385        6.~~(f)~~ In each case in which a child has been voluntarily  
386 placed with the licensed child-placing agency, the agency shall  
387 notify the clerk of the court in the circuit where the child  
388 resides of such placement within 5 working days. Notification of

389 the court is not required for any child who will be in out-of-  
390 home care no longer than 30 days unless that child is placed in  
391 out-of-home care a second time within a 12-month period. If the  
392 child is returned to the custody of the parents before the  
393 scheduled review hearing or if the child is placed for adoption,  
394 the child-placing agency shall notify the court of the child's  
395 return or placement within 5 working days, and the clerk of the  
396 court shall cancel the review hearing.

397 (e)~~(4)~~ The court shall schedule the date, time, and  
398 location of the next judicial review during the judicial review  
399 hearing and shall list same in the judicial review order.

400 (f)~~(5)~~ Notice of a judicial review hearing or a citizen  
401 review panel hearing, and a copy of the motion for judicial  
402 review, if any, must be served by the clerk of the court upon  
403 all of the following persons, if available to be served,  
404 regardless of whether the person was present at the previous  
405 hearing at which the date, time, and location of the hearing was  
406 announced:

407 1.~~(a)~~ The social service agency charged with the  
408 supervision of care, custody, or guardianship of the child, if  
409 that agency is not the movant.

410 2.~~(b)~~ The foster parent or legal custodian in whose home  
411 the child resides.

412 3.~~(c)~~ The parents.

413 4.~~(d)~~ The guardian ad litem for the child, or the  
414 representative of the guardian ad litem program if the program  
415 has been appointed.

416 5.~~(e)~~ The attorney for the child.

417 6.~~(f)~~ The child, if the child is 13 years of age or older.

418 7.~~(g)~~ Any preadoptive parent.

419 8.~~(h)~~ Such other persons as the court may direct.

420 (g)~~(6)~~ The attorney for the department shall notify a  
 421 relative who submits a request for notification of all  
 422 proceedings and hearings pursuant to s. 39.301(14) (b). The  
 423 notice shall include the date, time, and location of the next  
 424 judicial review hearing.

425 ~~(7) (a) In addition to paragraphs (1) (a) and (2) (a), the~~  
 426 ~~court shall hold a judicial review hearing within 90 days after~~  
 427 ~~a youth's 17th birthday. The court shall also issue an order,~~  
 428 ~~separate from the order on judicial review, that the disability~~  
 429 ~~of nonage of the youth has been removed pursuant to s. 743.045.~~  
 430 ~~The court shall continue to hold timely judicial review hearings~~  
 431 ~~thereafter. In addition, the court may review the status of the~~  
 432 ~~child more frequently during the year prior to the youth's 18th~~  
 433 ~~birthday if necessary. At each review held under this~~  
 434 ~~subsection, in addition to any information or report provided to~~  
 435 ~~the court, the foster parent, legal custodian, guardian ad~~  
 436 ~~litem, and the child shall be given the opportunity to address~~  
 437 ~~the court with any information relevant to the child's best~~  
 438 ~~interests, particularly as it relates to independent living~~  
 439 ~~transition services. In addition to any information or report~~  
 440 ~~provided to the court, the department shall include in its~~  
 441 ~~judicial review social study report written verification that~~  
 442 ~~the child:~~

443 ~~1. Has been provided with a current Medicaid card and has~~  
 444 ~~been provided all necessary information concerning the Medicaid~~



445 ~~program sufficient to prepare the youth to apply for coverage~~  
446 ~~upon reaching age 18, if such application would be appropriate.~~

447 ~~2. Has been provided with a certified copy of his or her~~  
448 ~~birth certificate and, if the child does not have a valid~~  
449 ~~driver's license, a Florida identification card issued under s.~~  
450 ~~322.051.~~

451 ~~3. Has been provided information relating to Social~~  
452 ~~Security Insurance benefits if the child is eligible for these~~  
453 ~~benefits. If the child has received these benefits and they are~~  
454 ~~being held in trust for the child, a full accounting of those~~  
455 ~~funds must be provided and the child must be informed about how~~  
456 ~~to access those funds.~~

457 ~~4. Has been provided with information and training related~~  
458 ~~to budgeting skills, interviewing skills, and parenting skills.~~

459 ~~5. Has been provided with all relevant information related~~  
460 ~~to the Road to Independence Program, including, but not limited~~  
461 ~~to, eligibility requirements, forms necessary to apply, and~~  
462 ~~assistance in completing the forms. The child shall also be~~  
463 ~~informed that, if he or she is eligible for the Road to~~  
464 ~~Independence Program, he or she may reside with the licensed~~  
465 ~~foster family or group care provider with whom the child was~~  
466 ~~residing at the time of attaining his or her 18th birthday or~~  
467 ~~may reside in another licensed foster home or with a group care~~  
468 ~~provider arranged by the department.~~

469 ~~6. Has an open bank account, or has identification~~  
470 ~~necessary to open an account, and has been provided with~~  
471 ~~essential banking skills.~~

472           7. ~~Has been provided with information on public assistance~~  
473 ~~and how to apply.~~

474           8. ~~Has been provided a clear understanding of where he or~~  
475 ~~she will be living on his or her 18th birthday, how living~~  
476 ~~expenses will be paid, and what educational program or school he~~  
477 ~~or she will be enrolled in.~~

478           9. ~~Has been provided with notice of the youth's right to~~  
479 ~~petition for the court's continuing jurisdiction for 1 year~~  
480 ~~after the youth's 18th birthday as specified in s. 39.013(2) and~~  
481 ~~with information on how to obtain access to the court.~~

482           10. ~~Has been encouraged to attend all judicial review~~  
483 ~~hearings occurring after his or her 17th birthday.~~

484           (b) ~~At the first judicial review hearing held subsequent~~  
485 ~~to the child's 17th birthday, in addition to the requirements of~~  
486 ~~subsection (8), the department shall provide the court with an~~  
487 ~~updated case plan that includes specific information related to~~  
488 ~~independent living services that have been provided since the~~  
489 ~~child's 13th birthday, or since the date the child came into~~  
490 ~~foster care, whichever came later.~~

491           (c) ~~At the time of a judicial review hearing held pursuant~~  
492 ~~to this subsection, if, in the opinion of the court, the~~  
493 ~~department has not complied with its obligations as specified in~~  
494 ~~the written case plan or in the provision of independent living~~  
495 ~~services as required by s. 409.1451 and this subsection, the~~  
496 ~~court shall issue a show cause order. If cause is shown for~~  
497 ~~failure to comply, the court shall give the department 30 days~~  
498 ~~within which to comply and, on failure to comply with this or~~  
499 ~~any subsequent order, the department may be held in contempt.~~

500            (2) ~~(8)~~ REVIEW HEARINGS FOR CHILDREN YOUNGER THAN 18 YEARS  
 501 OF AGE.—

502            (a) Social study report for judicial review.—Before every  
 503 judicial review hearing or citizen review panel hearing, the  
 504 social service agency shall make an investigation and social  
 505 study concerning all pertinent details relating to the child and  
 506 shall furnish to the court or citizen review panel a written  
 507 report that includes, but is not limited to:

508            1. A description of the type of placement the child is in  
 509 at the time of the hearing, including the safety of the child  
 510 and the continuing necessity for and appropriateness of the  
 511 placement.

512            2. Documentation of the diligent efforts made by all  
 513 parties to the case plan to comply with each applicable  
 514 provision of the plan.

515            3. The amount of fees assessed and collected during the  
 516 period of time being reported.

517            4. The services provided to the foster family or legal  
 518 custodian in an effort to address the needs of the child as  
 519 indicated in the case plan.

520            5. A statement that either:

521            a. The parent, though able to do so, did not comply  
 522 substantially with the case plan, and the agency  
 523 recommendations;

524            b. The parent did substantially comply with the case plan;  
 525 or

526 c. The parent has partially complied with the case plan,  
527 with a summary of additional progress needed and the agency  
528 recommendations.

529 6. A statement from the foster parent or legal custodian  
530 providing any material evidence concerning the return of the  
531 child to the parent or parents.

532 7. A statement concerning the frequency, duration, and  
533 results of the parent-child visitation, if any, and the agency  
534 recommendations for an expansion or restriction of future  
535 visitation.

536 8. The number of times a child has been removed from his  
537 or her home and placed elsewhere, the number and types of  
538 placements that have occurred, and the reason for the changes in  
539 placement.

540 9. The number of times a child's educational placement has  
541 been changed, the number and types of educational placements  
542 which have occurred, and the reason for any change in placement.

543 10. If the child has reached 13 years of age but is not  
544 yet 18 years of age, a statement from the caregiver on the  
545 progress the child has made in acquiring independent living  
546 skills ~~the results of the preindependent living, life skills, or~~  
547 ~~independent living assessment; the specific services needed; and~~  
548 ~~the status of the delivery of the identified services.~~

549 11. Copies of all medical, psychological, and educational  
550 records that support the terms of the case plan and that have  
551 been produced concerning the parents or any caregiver since the  
552 last judicial review hearing.

553 12. Copies of the child's current health, mental health,  
554 and education records as identified in s. 39.6012.

555 (b) Submission and distribution of reports.—

556 1. A copy of the social service agency's written report  
557 and the written report of the guardian ad litem must be served  
558 on all parties whose whereabouts are known; to the foster  
559 parents or legal custodians; and to the citizen review panel, at  
560 least 72 hours before the judicial review hearing or citizen  
561 review panel hearing. The requirement for providing parents with  
562 a copy of the written report does not apply to those parents who  
563 have voluntarily surrendered their child for adoption or who  
564 have had their parental rights to the child terminated.

565 2.~~(e)~~ In a case in which the child has been permanently  
566 placed with the social service agency, the agency shall furnish  
567 to the court a written report concerning the progress being made  
568 to place the child for adoption. If the child cannot be placed  
569 for adoption, a report on the progress made by the child towards  
570 alternative permanency goals or placements, including, but not  
571 limited to, guardianship, long-term custody, long-term licensed  
572 custody, or independent living, must be submitted to the court.  
573 The report must be submitted to the court at least 72 hours  
574 before each scheduled judicial review.

575 3.~~(d)~~ In addition to or in lieu of any written statement  
576 provided to the court, the foster parent or legal custodian, or  
577 any preadoptive parent, shall be given the opportunity to  
578 address the court with any information relevant to the best  
579 interests of the child at any judicial review hearing.

580            (c)-(9) Review determinations.—The court and any citizen  
581 review panel shall take into consideration the information  
582 contained in the social services study and investigation and all  
583 medical, psychological, and educational records that support the  
584 terms of the case plan; testimony by the social services agency,  
585 the parent, the foster parent or legal custodian, the guardian  
586 ad litem or surrogate parent for educational decisionmaking if  
587 one has been appointed for the child, and any other person  
588 deemed appropriate; and any relevant and material evidence  
589 submitted to the court, including written and oral reports to  
590 the extent of their probative value. These reports and evidence  
591 may be received by the court in its effort to determine the  
592 action to be taken with regard to the child and may be relied  
593 upon to the extent of their probative value, even though not  
594 competent in an adjudicatory hearing. In its deliberations, the  
595 court and any citizen review panel shall seek to determine:

596            1.(a) If the parent was advised of the right to receive  
597 assistance from any person or social service agency in the  
598 preparation of the case plan.

599            2.(b) If the parent has been advised of the right to have  
600 counsel present at the judicial review or citizen review  
601 hearings. If not so advised, the court or citizen review panel  
602 shall advise the parent of such right.

603            3.(e) If a guardian ad litem needs to be appointed for the  
604 child in a case in which a guardian ad litem has not previously  
605 been appointed or if there is a need to continue a guardian ad  
606 litem in a case in which a guardian ad litem has been appointed.

607        4.~~(d)~~ Who holds the rights to make educational decisions  
608 for the child. If appropriate, the court may refer the child to  
609 the district school superintendent for appointment of a  
610 surrogate parent or may itself appoint a surrogate parent under  
611 the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and s. 39.0016.

612        5.~~(e)~~ The compliance or lack of compliance of all parties  
613 with applicable items of the case plan, including the parents'  
614 compliance with child support orders.

615        6.~~(f)~~ The compliance or lack of compliance with a  
616 visitation contract between the parent and the social service  
617 agency for contact with the child, including the frequency,  
618 duration, and results of the parent-child visitation and the  
619 reason for any noncompliance.

620        7.~~(g)~~ The compliance or lack of compliance of the parent  
621 in meeting specified financial obligations pertaining to the  
622 care of the child, including the reason for failure to comply if  
623 such is the case.

624        8.~~(h)~~ Whether the child is receiving safe and proper care  
625 according to s. 39.6012, including, but not limited to, the  
626 appropriateness of the child's current placement, including  
627 whether the child is in a setting that is as family-like and as  
628 close to the parent's home as possible, consistent with the  
629 child's best interests and special needs, and including  
630 maintaining stability in the child's educational placement, as  
631 documented by assurances from the community-based care provider  
632 that:

633        a.1.~~1.~~ The placement of the child takes into account the  
634 appropriateness of the current educational setting and the

635 proximity to the school in which the child is enrolled at the  
636 time of placement.

637 ~~b.2.~~ The community-based care agency has coordinated with  
638 appropriate local educational agencies to ensure that the child  
639 remains in the school in which the child is enrolled at the time  
640 of placement.

641 9.(i) A projected date likely for the child's return home  
642 or other permanent placement.

643 10.(j) When appropriate, the basis for the unwillingness  
644 or inability of the parent to become a party to a case plan. The  
645 court and the citizen review panel shall determine if the  
646 efforts of the social service agency to secure party  
647 participation in a case plan were sufficient.

648 11.(k) For a child who has reached 13 years of age but is  
649 not yet 18 years of age, the adequacy of the child's preparation  
650 for adulthood and independent living.

651 12.(l) If amendments to the case plan are required.  
652 Amendments to the case plan must be made under s. 39.6013.

653 ~~(d)(10)(a)~~ Orders.-

654 1. Based upon the criteria set forth in paragraph (c)  
655 ~~subsection (9)~~ and the recommended order of the citizen review  
656 panel, if any, the court shall determine whether or not the  
657 social service agency shall initiate proceedings to have a child  
658 declared a dependent child, return the child to the parent,  
659 continue the child in out-of-home care for a specified period of  
660 time, or initiate termination of parental rights proceedings for  
661 subsequent placement in an adoptive home. Amendments to the case  
662 plan must be prepared as prescribed in s. 39.6013. If the court



663 finds that the prevention or reunification efforts of the  
664 department will allow the child to remain safely at home or be  
665 safely returned to the home, the court shall allow the child to  
666 remain in or return to the home after making a specific finding  
667 of fact that the reasons for the creation of the case plan have  
668 been remedied to the extent that the child's safety, well-being,  
669 and physical, mental, and emotional health will not be  
670 endangered.

671 2.~~(b)~~ The court shall return the child to the custody of  
672 the parents at any time it determines that they have  
673 substantially complied with the case plan, if the court is  
674 satisfied that reunification will not be detrimental to the  
675 child's safety, well-being, and physical, mental, and emotional  
676 health.

677 3.~~(e)~~ If, in the opinion of the court, the social service  
678 agency has not complied with its obligations as specified in the  
679 written case plan, the court may find the social service agency  
680 in contempt, shall order the social service agency to submit its  
681 plans for compliance with the agreement, and shall require the  
682 social service agency to show why the child could not safely be  
683 returned to the home of the parents.

684 4.~~(d)~~ If, at any judicial review, the court finds that the  
685 parents have failed to substantially comply with the case plan  
686 to the degree that further reunification efforts are without  
687 merit and not in the best interest of the child, on its own  
688 motion, the court may order the filing of a petition for  
689 termination of parental rights, whether or not the time period

690 as contained in the case plan for substantial compliance has  
691 expired.

692 5.~~(e)~~ Within 6 months after the date that the child was  
693 placed in shelter care, the court shall conduct a judicial  
694 review hearing to review the child's permanency goal as  
695 identified in the case plan. At the hearing the court shall make  
696 findings regarding the likelihood of the child's reunification  
697 with the parent or legal custodian within 12 months after the  
698 removal of the child from the home. If the court makes a written  
699 finding that it is not likely that the child will be reunified  
700 with the parent or legal custodian within 12 months after the  
701 child was removed from the home, the department must file with  
702 the court, and serve on all parties, a motion to amend the case  
703 plan under s. 39.6013 and declare that it will use concurrent  
704 planning for the case plan. The department must file the motion  
705 within 10 business days after receiving the written finding of  
706 the court. The department must attach the proposed amended case  
707 plan to the motion. If concurrent planning is already being  
708 used, the case plan must document the efforts the department is  
709 taking to complete the concurrent goal.

710 6.~~(f)~~ The court may issue a protective order in  
711 assistance, or as a condition, of any other order made under  
712 this part. In addition to the requirements included in the case  
713 plan, the protective order may set forth requirements relating  
714 to reasonable conditions of behavior to be observed for a  
715 specified period of time by a person or agency who is before the  
716 court; and the order may require any person or agency to make

717 periodic reports to the court containing such information as the  
718 court in its discretion may prescribe.

719 (3) REVIEW HEARINGS FOR CHILDREN 17 YEARS OF AGE.—

720 (a) In addition to the review and report required under  
721 paragraphs (1)(a) and (2)(a), respectively, the court shall hold  
722 a judicial review hearing within 90 days after a child's 17th  
723 birthday. The court shall also issue an order, separate from the  
724 order on judicial review, that the disability of nonage of the  
725 child has been removed pursuant to s. 743.045 and shall continue  
726 to hold timely judicial review hearings. If necessary, the court  
727 may review the status of the child more frequently during the  
728 year before the child's 18th birthday. At each review hearing  
729 held under this subsection, in addition to any information or  
730 report provided to the court by the foster parent, legal  
731 custodian, or guardian ad litem, the child shall be given the  
732 opportunity to address the court with any information relevant  
733 to the child's best interest, particularly in relation to  
734 independent living transition services. The department shall  
735 include in the social study report for judicial review written  
736 verification that the child has:

737 1. A current Medicaid card and all necessary information  
738 concerning the Medicaid program sufficient to prepare the child  
739 to apply for coverage upon reaching the age of 18, if such  
740 application is appropriate.

741 2. A certified copy of the child's birth certificate and a  
742 valid driver license or, if the child does not have a valid  
743 driver license, a Florida identification card issued under s.  
744 322.051.

745       3. A social security card and information relating to  
746 social security insurance benefits if the child is eligible for  
747 those benefits. If the child has received such benefits and they  
748 are being held in trust for the child, a full accounting of  
749 these funds must be provided and the child must be informed as  
750 to how to access those funds.

751       4. All relevant information related to the Road-to-  
752 Independence Program, including, but not limited to, eligibility  
753 requirements, information on participation, and assistance in  
754 gaining admission to the program. If the child is eligible for  
755 the Road-to-Independence Program, he or she must be advised that  
756 he or she may continue to reside with the licensed family home  
757 or group care provider with whom the child was residing at the  
758 time the child attained his or her 18th birthday, in another  
759 licensed family home, or with a group care provider arranged by  
760 the department.

761       5. An open bank account or the identification necessary to  
762 open a bank account and to acquire essential banking and  
763 budgeting skills.

764       6. Information on public assistance and how to apply for  
765 public assistance.

766       7. A clear understanding of where he or she will be living  
767 on his or her 18th birthday, how living expenses will be paid,  
768 and the educational program or school in which he or she will be  
769 enrolled.

770       8. Information related to the ability of the child to  
771 remain in care until he or she reaches 21 years of age under s.  
772 39.013.

773 9. A letter providing the dates that the child is under  
774 the jurisdiction of the court.

775 10. When applicable, a letter stating that the child is in  
776 compliance with financial aid documentation requirements.

777 11. The child's educational records.

778 12. The child's entire health and mental health records.

779 13. The process for accessing his or her case file.

780 14. A statement encouraging the child to attend all  
781 judicial review hearings occurring after the child's 17th  
782 birthday.

783 (b) At the first judicial review hearing held subsequent  
784 to the child's 17th birthday, the department shall provide the  
785 court with an updated case plan that includes specific  
786 information related to the independent living skills that the  
787 child has acquired since the child's 13th birthday, or since the  
788 date the child came into foster care, whichever came later.

789 (c) If the court finds at the judicial review hearing that  
790 the department has not met with its obligations to the child as  
791 stated in the written case plan or in the provision of  
792 independent living services, the court may issue an order  
793 directing the department to show cause as to why it has not done  
794 so. If the department cannot justify its noncompliance, the  
795 court may give the department 30 days within which to comply. If  
796 the department fails to comply within 30 days, the court may  
797 hold the department in contempt.

798 (d) At the last review hearing before the child reaches 18  
799 years of age, and in addition to the requirements of subsection  
800 (2), the court shall:

801 1. Address whether the child plans to remain in foster  
 802 care, and, if so, ensure that the child's transition plan  
 803 includes a plan for meeting one or more of the criteria  
 804 specified in s. 39.6251.

805 2. Ensure that the transition plan includes a supervised  
 806 living arrangement under s. 39.6251.

807 3. Ensure the child has been informed of:

808 a. The right to continued support and services from the  
 809 department and the community-based care lead agency.

810 b. The right to request termination of dependency  
 811 jurisdiction and be discharged from foster care.

812 c. The opportunity to reenter foster care pursuant to s.  
 813 39.6251.

814 4. Ensure that the young adult, if he or she requests  
 815 termination of dependency jurisdiction and discharge from foster  
 816 care, has been informed of:

817 a. Services or benefits for which the young adult may be  
 818 eligible based on his or her former placement in foster care.

819 b. Services or benefits that may be lost through  
 820 termination of dependency jurisdiction.

821 c. Other federal, state, local, or community-based  
 822 services or supports available to him or her.

823 (4) REVIEW HEARINGS FOR YOUNG ADULTS IN FOSTER CARE.—

824 During each period of time that a young adult remains in foster  
 825 care, the court shall review the status of the young adult at  
 826 least every 6 months and must hold a permanency review hearing  
 827 at least annually.

828        (a) The department and community-based care lead agency  
829 shall prepare and submit to the court a report, developed in  
830 collaboration with the young adult, which addresses the young  
831 adult's progress in meeting the goals in the case plan. The  
832 report must include progress information related to the young  
833 adult's independent living plan and transition plan, if  
834 applicable, and shall propose modifications as necessary to  
835 further the young adult's goals.

836        (b) The court shall attempt to determine whether the  
837 department and any service provider under contract with the  
838 department are providing the appropriate services as provided in  
839 the case plan.

840        (c) If the court believes that the young adult is entitled  
841 under department policy or under a contract with a service  
842 provider to additional services to achieve the goals enumerated  
843 in the case plan, it may order the department to take action to  
844 ensure that the young adult receives the identified services.

845        (d) The young adult or any other party to the dependency  
846 case may request an additional hearing or judicial review.

847        (e) Notwithstanding the provisions of this subsection, if  
848 a young adult has chosen to remain in extended foster care after  
849 he or she has reached 18 years of age, the department may not  
850 close a case and the court may not terminate jurisdiction until  
851 the court finds, following a hearing, that the following  
852 criteria have been met:

- 853            1. Attendance of the young adult at the hearing; or  
854            2. Findings by the court that:

855 a. The young adult has been informed by the department of  
856 his or her right to attend the hearing and has provided written  
857 consent to waive this right; and

858 b. The young adult has been informed of the potential  
859 negative effects of early termination of care, the option to  
860 reenter care before reaching 21 years of age, the procedure for,  
861 and limitations on, reentering care, and the availability of  
862 alternative services, and has signed a document attesting that  
863 he or she has been so informed and understands these provisions;  
864 or

865 c. The young adult has voluntarily left the program, has  
866 not signed the document in sub-subparagraph b., and is unwilling  
867 to participate in any further court proceeding.

868 (f) In all permanency hearings or hearings regarding the  
869 transition of the young adult from care to independent living,  
870 the court shall consult with the young adult regarding the  
871 proposed permanency plan, case plan, and individual education  
872 plan for the young adult and ensure that he or she has  
873 understood the conversation.

874 Section 6. Section 409.145, Florida Statutes, is amended  
875 to read:

876 409.145 Care of children; quality parenting; "reasonable  
877 and prudent parent" standard.—The child welfare system of the  
878 department shall operate as a coordinated community-based system  
879 of care which empowers all caregivers for children in foster  
880 care to provide quality parenting, including approving or  
881 disapproving a child's participation in activities based on the



882 | caregiver's assessment using the "reasonable and prudent parent"  
 883 | standard.

884 |       (1) SYSTEM OF CARE.—The department shall develop,  
 885 | implement ~~conduct, supervise,~~ and administer a coordinated  
 886 | community-based system of care ~~program~~ for ~~dependent~~ children  
 887 | who are found to be dependent and their families. This system of  
 888 | care must ~~The services of the department are to be directed~~  
 889 | toward the following goals:

890 |       (a) ~~The~~ Prevention of separation of children from their  
 891 | families.

892 |       (b) Intervention to allow children to remain safely in  
 893 | their own homes.

894 |       (c) ~~(b)~~ ~~The~~ Reunification of families who have had children  
 895 | removed from their care ~~placed in foster homes or institutions.~~

896 |       (d) Safety for children who are separated from their  
 897 | families by providing alternative emergency or longer-term  
 898 | parenting arrangements.

899 |       (e) Well-being of children through emphasis on maintaining  
 900 | educational stability and providing timely health care.

901 |       (f) ~~(e)~~ Permanency for ~~The permanent placement of~~ children  
 902 | for whom reunification ~~who cannot be reunited~~ with their  
 903 | families is not possible or ~~when reunification would~~ is not be  
 904 | in the best interest of the child.

905 |       ~~(d)~~ ~~The protection of dependent children or children~~  
 906 | ~~alleged to be dependent, including provision of emergency and~~  
 907 | ~~long term alternate living arrangements.~~

908        ~~(g)(e)~~ The transition to independence and self-sufficiency  
909 for older children who remain in foster care through adolescence  
910 ~~continue to be in foster care as adolescents.~~

911        ~~(2) The following dependent children shall be subject to~~  
912 ~~the protection, care, guidance, and supervision of the~~  
913 ~~department or any duly licensed public or private agency:~~

914        ~~(a) Any child who has been temporarily or permanently~~  
915 ~~taken from the custody of the parents, custodians, or guardians~~  
916 ~~in accordance with those provisions in chapter 39 that relate to~~  
917 ~~dependent children.~~

918        ~~(b) Any child who is in need of the protective supervision~~  
919 ~~of the department as determined by intake or by the court in~~  
920 ~~accordance with those provisions of chapter 39 that relate to~~  
921 ~~dependent children.~~

922        ~~(c) Any child who is voluntarily placed, with the written~~  
923 ~~consent of the parents or guardians, in the department's foster~~  
924 ~~care program or the foster care program of a licensed private~~  
925 ~~agency.~~

926        ~~(3) The circuit courts exercising juvenile jurisdiction in~~  
927 ~~the various counties of this state shall cooperate with the~~  
928 ~~department and its employees in carrying out the purposes and~~  
929 ~~intent of this chapter.~~

930        ~~(4) The department is authorized to accept children on a~~  
931 ~~permanent placement basis by order of a court of competent~~  
932 ~~jurisdiction for the single purpose of adoption placement of~~  
933 ~~these children. The department is authorized to provide the~~  
934 ~~necessary services to place these children ordered to the~~  
935 ~~department on a permanent placement basis for adoption.~~

936 ~~(5) Any funds appropriated by counties for child welfare~~  
937 ~~services may be matched by state and federal funds, such funds~~  
938 ~~to be utilized by the department for the benefit of children in~~  
939 ~~those counties.~~

940 ~~(6) Whenever any child is placed under the protection,~~  
941 ~~care, and guidance of the department or a duly licensed public~~  
942 ~~or private agency, or as soon thereafter as is practicable, the~~  
943 ~~department or agency, as the case may be, shall endeavor to~~  
944 ~~obtain such information concerning the family medical history of~~  
945 ~~the child and the natural parents as is available or readily~~  
946 ~~obtainable. This information shall be kept on file by the~~  
947 ~~department or agency for possible future use as provided in ss.~~  
948 ~~63.082 and 63.162 or as may be otherwise provided by law.~~

949 ~~(7) Whenever any child is placed by the department in a~~  
950 ~~shelter home, foster home, or other residential placement, the~~  
951 ~~department shall make available to the operator of the shelter~~  
952 ~~home, foster home, other residential placement, or other~~  
953 ~~caretaker as soon thereafter as is practicable, all relevant~~  
954 ~~information concerning the child's demographic, social, and~~  
955 ~~medical history.~~

956 (2) QUALITY PARENTING.—A child in foster care shall be  
957 placed only with a caregiver who has the ability to care for the  
958 child, is willing to accept responsibility for providing care,  
959 and is willing and able to learn about and be respectful of the  
960 child's culture, religion and ethnicity, special physical or  
961 psychological needs, unique circumstances, and family  
962 relationships. The department, the community-based care lead  
963 agency, and other agencies shall provide such caregiver with all

964 available information necessary to assist the caregiver in  
965 determining whether he or she is able to appropriately care for  
966 a particular child.

967 (a) Roles and responsibilities of caregivers.—A caregiver  
968 shall:

969 1. Participate in developing the case plan for the child  
970 and his or her family and work with others involved in his or  
971 her care to implement this plan. This participation includes the  
972 caregiver's involvement in all team meetings or court hearings  
973 related to the child's care.

974 2. Complete all training needed to improve skills in  
975 parenting a child who has experienced trauma due to neglect,  
976 abuse, or separation from home, to meet the child's special  
977 needs, and to work effectively with child welfare agencies, the  
978 court, the schools, and other community and governmental  
979 agencies.

980 3. Respect and support the child's ties to members of his  
981 or her biological family and assist the child in maintaining  
982 allowable visitation and other forms of communication.

983 4. Effectively advocate for the child in the caregiver's  
984 care with the child welfare system, the court, and community  
985 agencies, including the school, child care providers, health and  
986 mental health providers, and employers.

987 5. Participate fully in the child's medical,  
988 psychological, and dental care as the caregiver would for his or  
989 her biological child.

990 6. Support the child's school success by participating in  
991 school activities and meetings, including individual education

992 plan meetings, assisting with school assignments, supporting  
993 tutoring programs, meeting with teachers and working with an  
994 educational surrogate if one has been appointed, and encouraging  
995 the child's participation in extracurricular activities.

996 7. Work in partnership with other stakeholders to obtain  
997 and maintain records that are important to the child's well-  
998 being, including child resource records, medical records, school  
999 records, photographs, and records of special events and  
1000 achievements.

1001 8. Ensure that the child who has reached 13 years of age  
1002 but is not yet 17 years of age learns and masters independent  
1003 living skills.

1004 9. Ensure that the child is aware of the requirements and  
1005 benefits of the Road-to-Independence Program.

1006 10. Work to enable the child to establish and maintain  
1007 naturally occurring mentoring relationships.

1008 (b) Roles and responsibilities of the department, the  
1009 community-based care lead agency, and other agency staff.—The  
1010 department, the community-based care lead agency, and other  
1011 agency staff shall:

1012 1. Include the caregiver in the development and  
1013 implementation of the case plan for the child and his or her  
1014 family. The caregiver shall be authorized to participate in all  
1015 team meetings or court hearings related to the child's care and  
1016 future plans. The caregiver's participation shall be facilitated  
1017 through timely notification, an inclusive process, and  
1018 alternative methods for participation for a caregiver who cannot  
1019 be physically present.

1020           2. Develop and make available to the caregiver the  
1021 information, services, training, and support that the caregiver  
1022 needs to improve his or her skills in parenting children who  
1023 have experienced trauma due to neglect, abuse, or separation  
1024 from home, to meet these children's special needs, and to  
1025 advocate effectively with child welfare agencies, the courts,  
1026 schools, and other community and governmental agencies.

1027           3. Provide the caregiver with all information related to  
1028 services and other benefits that are available to the child.

1029           (c) Transitions.—

1030           1. Once a caregiver accepts the responsibility of caring  
1031 for a child, the child will be removed from the home of that  
1032 caregiver only if:

1033           a. The caregiver is clearly unable to safely or legally  
1034 care for the child;

1035           b. The child and his or her biological family are  
1036 reunified;

1037           c. The child is being placed in a legally permanent home  
1038 pursuant to the case plan or a court order;

1039           d. The removal is demonstrably in the child's best  
1040 interest; or

1041           e. The caregiver is no longer able or willing to care for  
1042 the child.

1043           2. In the absence of an emergency, if a child leaves the  
1044 caregiver's home for a reason provided under subparagraph 1.,  
1045 the transition must be accomplished according to a plan that  
1046 involves cooperation and sharing of information among all  
1047 persons involved, respects the child's developmental stage and

1048 psychological needs, ensures the child has all of his or her  
1049 belongings, and allows for a gradual transition from the  
1050 caregiver's home and, if possible, for continued contact with  
1051 the caregiver after the child leaves.

1052 (d) Information sharing.—Whenever a foster home or  
1053 residential group home assumes responsibility for the care of a  
1054 child, the department and any additional providers shall make  
1055 available to the caregiver as soon as is practicable all  
1056 relevant information concerning the child. Records and  
1057 information that are required to be shared with caregivers  
1058 include, but are not limited to:

1059 1. Medical, dental, psychological, psychiatric, and  
1060 behavioral history, as well as ongoing evaluation or treatment  
1061 needs.

1062 2. School records.

1063 3. Copies of his or her birth certificate and, if  
1064 appropriate, immigration status documents.

1065 4. Consents signed by parents.

1066 5. Comprehensive behavioral assessments and other social  
1067 assessments.

1068 6. Court orders.

1069 7. Visitation and case plans.

1070 8. Guardian ad litem reports.

1071 9. Staffing forms.

1072 10. Judicial or citizen review panel reports and  
1073 attachments filed with the court, except confidential medical,  
1074 psychiatric, and psychological information regarding any party  
1075 or participant other than the child.

1076 (e) Caregivers employed by residential group homes.-All  
1077 caregivers in residential group homes shall meet the same  
1078 education, training, and background and other screening  
1079 requirements as foster parents.

1080 (f) The department, in collaboration with the Florida  
1081 State Foster and Adoptive Parent Association and the Quality  
1082 Parenting Initiative will design and disseminate training for  
1083 caregivers on skill building on the life skills necessary for  
1084 youth in the foster care system.

1085 (3) REASONABLE AND PRUDENT PARENT STANDARD.-

1086 (a) Definitions.-As used in this subsection, the term:

1087 1. "Age-appropriate" means generally accepted as suitable  
1088 for a child of the same chronological age or level of maturity.  
1089 Age appropriateness is based on the development of cognitive,  
1090 emotional, physical, and behavioral capacity which is typical  
1091 for an age or age group.

1092 2. "Caregiver" means a person with whom the child is  
1093 placed in out-of-home care, or a designated official for a group  
1094 care facility licensed by the department under s. 409.175.

1095 3. "Reasonable and prudent parent standard" means the  
1096 standard characterized by careful and sensible parental  
1097 decisions that maintain the child's health, safety, and best  
1098 interest while at the same time encouraging the child's  
1099 emotional and developmental growth, that a caregiver shall use  
1100 when determining whether to allow a child in out-of-home care to  
1101 participate in extracurricular, enrichment, and social  
1102 activities.

1103 (b) Application of standard of care.-



1104 1. Every child who comes into out-of-home care pursuant to  
1105 this chapter is entitled to participate in age-appropriate  
1106 extracurricular, enrichment, and social activities.

1107 2. Each caregiver shall use the reasonable and prudent  
1108 parent standard in determining whether to give permission for a  
1109 child living in out-of-home care to participate in  
1110 extracurricular, enrichment, or social activities. When using  
1111 the reasonable and prudent parent standard, the caregiver must  
1112 consider:

1113 a. The child's age, maturity, and developmental level to  
1114 maintain the overall health and safety of the child.

1115 b. The potential risk factors and the appropriateness of  
1116 the extracurricular, enrichment, or social activity.

1117 c. The best interest of the child, based on information  
1118 known by the caregiver.

1119 d. The importance of encouraging the child's emotional and  
1120 developmental growth.

1121 e. The importance of providing the child with the most  
1122 family-like living experience possible.

1123 f. The behavioral history of the child and the child's  
1124 ability to safely participate in the proposed activity.

1125 (c) Verification of services delivered.—The department and  
1126 each community-based care lead agency shall verify that private  
1127 agencies providing out-of-home care services to dependent  
1128 children have policies in place which are consistent with this  
1129 section and that these agencies promote and protect the ability  
1130 of dependent children to participate in age-appropriate  
1131 extracurricular, enrichment, and social activities.

1132 (d) Limitation of liability.—A caregiver is not liable for  
 1133 harm caused to a child who participates in an activity approved  
 1134 by the caregiver, provided that the caregiver has acted in  
 1135 accordance with the reasonable and prudent parent standard. This  
 1136 paragraph may not be interpreted as removing or limiting any  
 1137 existing liability protection afforded by law.

1138 (4) FOSTER PARENT ROOM AND BOARD RATES.—

1139 (a) Effective January 1, 2014, monthly room and board  
 1140 rates paid to foster parents are as follows:

<u>Monthly Foster</u>	<u>0-5 Years Age</u>	<u>6-12 Years Age</u>	<u>13-21 Years Age</u>
<u>Care Rate</u>			

	<u>\$429</u>	<u>\$440</u>	<u>\$515</u>
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1145 (b) Foster parents who are receiving the minimum room and  
 1146 board rate as provided in paragraph (a) shall receive an annual  
 1147 cost-of-living increase, beginning July 1, 2014. The department  
 1148 shall calculate the new room and board rate increase equal to  
 1149 the percentage change in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban  
 1150 Consumers, U.S. City Average, All Items, not seasonally  
 1151 adjusted, or successor reports, for the preceding December  
 1152 compared to the prior December as initially reported by the  
 1153 United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.  
 1154 The department shall make available the adjusted room and board  
 1155 rates annually.

1156 (c) The amount of the monthly foster parent room and board  
1157 rate may be increased upon agreement among the department, the  
1158 community-based care lead agency, and the foster parent.

1159 (d) Community-based care lead agencies providing care  
1160 under contract with the department shall pay a supplemental room  
1161 and board payment to foster care parents for providing  
1162 independent life skills and normalcy supports to children who  
1163 are age 13 through 17 placed in their care. The supplemental  
1164 payment shall be paid monthly to the foster care parents on a  
1165 per-child basis in addition to the current monthly room and  
1166 board rate payment. The supplemental monthly payment shall be  
1167 based on 10 percent of the monthly room and board rate for  
1168 children age 13 through 21 as provided under this section and  
1169 adjusted annually.

1170 (5) RULEMAKING.—The department shall adopt by rule  
1171 procedures to administer this section.

1172 Section 7. Section 409.1451, Florida Statutes, is amended  
1173 to read:

1174 (Substantial rewording of section. See  
1175 s. 409.1451, F.S., for present text).

1176 409.1451 The Road-to-Independence Program.—

1177 (1) LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND INTENT.—

1178 (a) The Legislature recognizes that most children and  
1179 young adults are resilient and, with adequate support, can  
1180 expect to be successful as independent adults. Not unlike many  
1181 young adults, some young adults who have lived in foster care  
1182 need additional support and resources for a period of time after  
1183 reaching 18 years of age.

1184        (b) The Legislature finds that while it is important to  
 1185 provide young adults who have lived in foster care with  
 1186 education and independent living skills, there is also a need to  
 1187 focus more broadly on creating and preserving family  
 1188 relationships so that young adults have a permanent connection  
 1189 with at least one committed adult who provides a safe and stable  
 1190 parenting relationship.

1191        (c) It is the intent of the Legislature that young adults  
 1192 who choose to participate in the program receive the skills,  
 1193 education, and support necessary to become self-sufficient and  
 1194 leave foster care with a lifelong connection to a supportive  
 1195 adult through the Road-to-Independence Program, either through  
 1196 postsecondary education services and support, as provided in  
 1197 subsection (2), or aftercare services.

1198        (2) POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION SERVICES AND SUPPORT.—

1199        (a) A young adult is eligible for services and support  
 1200 under this subsection if he or she:

1201        1. Was living in licensed care on his or her 18th birthday  
 1202 or is currently living in licensed care, or was at least 16  
 1203 years of age and was adopted from foster care or placed with a  
 1204 court-approved dependency guardian after spending at least 6  
 1205 months in licensed care within the 12 months immediately  
 1206 preceding such placement or adoption;

1207        2. Spent at least 6 months in licensed care before  
 1208 reaching his or her 18th birthday;

1209        3. Earned a standard high school diploma or its equivalent  
 1210 pursuant to s. 1003.428, s. 1003.4281, s. 1003.429, s. 1003.43,  
 1211 or s. 1003.435;

1212 4. Has been admitted for enrollment as a full-time student  
1213 or its equivalent in an eligible postsecondary educational  
1214 institution as provided in s. 1009.533 unless the young adult  
1215 has a recognized disability preventing full-time attendance, or  
1216 has been admitted for enrollment in an eligible postsecondary  
1217 educational institution as provided in s. 1009.533 for a minimum  
1218 of 9 credit hours per semester, or the equivalent for vocational  
1219 technical programs, and working part time unless the young adult  
1220 has a recognized disability preventing the minimum attendance  
1221 and work requirements;

1222 5. Has reached 18 years of age but is not yet 23 years of  
1223 age;

1224 6. Has applied, with assistance from the young adult's  
1225 caregiver and the community-based care lead agency, for grants  
1226 and scholarships;

1227 7. Submitted a Free Application for Federal Student Aid  
1228 which is complete and error free; and

1229 8. Signed an agreement to allow the department and the  
1230 community-based care lead agency access to school records.

1231 (b) The amount of the financial assistance shall be as  
1232 follows:

1233 1. For a young adult who does not remain in foster care  
1234 and is attending a postsecondary educational institution as  
1235 provided in s. 1009.533, the amount is \$1,256 monthly.

1236 2. For a young adult who remains in foster care, is  
1237 attending a postsecondary educational institution as provided in  
1238 s. 1009.533, and continues to reside in a licensed foster home,

1239 the amount is the established room and board rate for foster  
1240 parents as provided in s. 409.145(4).

1241 3. For a young adult who remains in foster care, but  
1242 temporarily resides away from a licensed foster home for  
1243 purposes of attending a postsecondary educational institution as  
1244 provided in s. 1009.533, the amount is \$1,256 monthly while the  
1245 young adult resides away from the licensed group home. The  
1246 amount is the board rate while the child resides in the foster  
1247 home, instead of the \$1,256.

1248 4. For a young adult who remains in foster care, is  
1249 attending a postsecondary educational institution as provided in  
1250 s. 1009.533, and continues to reside in a licensed group home,  
1251 the amount is negotiated between the community-based care lead  
1252 agency and the licensed group home provider.

1253 5. For a young adult who remains in foster care but  
1254 temporarily resides away from a licensed group home for purposes  
1255 of attending a postsecondary educational institution as provided  
1256 in s. 1009.533, the amount is \$1,256 monthly while the young  
1257 adult resides away from the licensed group home. The amount is  
1258 negotiated between the licensed group home and the community-  
1259 based care lead agency while the young adult resides in the  
1260 licensed group home, instead of the \$1,256.

1261 6. The amount of the award may be disregarded for purposes  
1262 of determining the eligibility for, or the amount of, any other  
1263 federal or federally supported assistance.

1264 7. A young adult is eligible to receive financial  
1265 assistance during the months when enrolled in a postsecondary  
1266 educational institution.

1267 (c) Payment of financial assistance for a young adult who:

1268 1. Has chosen not to remain in foster care and is  
1269 attending a postsecondary educational institution as provided in  
1270 s. 1009.533 shall be made to the community-based care lead  
1271 agency in order to secure housing and utilities, with the  
1272 balance being paid directly to the young adult until such time  
1273 the lead agency and the young adult determine that the young  
1274 adult can successfully manage the full amount of the assistance.

1275 2. Has remained in foster care, is attending a  
1276 postsecondary educational institution as provided in s.  
1277 1009.533, and is residing in a foster home or group home shall  
1278 be made directly to the foster parent or group home provider.

1279 3. Has chosen to reside temporarily away from a licensed  
1280 foster home or group home for purposes of attending  
1281 postsecondary educational institution as provided in s. 1009.533  
1282 shall be made to the community-based care lead agency in order  
1283 to secure housing and utilities, with the balance being paid  
1284 directly to the young adult while they temporarily reside away  
1285 from a licensed foster home or group home for purposes of  
1286 attending postsecondary school. When the young adult returns to  
1287 reside in the foster home or group home, the payment will be  
1288 paid directly to the foster parent or licensed group home.

1289  
1290 Community-based care lead agencies or other contracted providers  
1291 are prohibited from charging a fee associated with administering  
1292 the Road-to-Independence Program.

1293 (d)1. The department must advertise the availability of  
1294 the stipend and must provide notification of the criteria and

1295 application procedures for the stipend to children and young  
 1296 adults leaving, or who were formerly in, foster care;  
 1297 caregivers; case managers; guidance and family services  
 1298 counselors; principals or other relevant school administrators;  
 1299 and guardians ad litem.

1300 2. If the award recipient transfers from one eligible  
 1301 institution to another and continues to meet eligibility  
 1302 requirements, the award shall be transferred with the recipient.

1303 3. The department, or an agency under contract with the  
 1304 department, shall evaluate each Road-to-Independence award for  
 1305 renewal eligibility on an annual basis. In order to be eligible  
 1306 for a renewal award for the subsequent year, the young adult  
 1307 must:

1308 a. Be enrolled for or have completed the number of hours,  
 1309 or the equivalent, to be considered a full-time student by the  
 1310 eligible postsecondary educational institution in which the  
 1311 young adult is enrolled, unless the young adult has a recognized  
 1312 disability preventing full-time attendance, or be enrolled for  
 1313 or have completed a minimum of 9 credit hours per semester in a  
 1314 postsecondary educational institution, or the equivalent for  
 1315 vocational technical programs, and working part-time, unless the  
 1316 young adult has a recognized disability preventing the minimum  
 1317 attendance and work requirements.

1318 b. Maintain appropriate progress as required by the  
 1319 educational institution, except that if the young adult's  
 1320 progress is insufficient to renew the award at any time during  
 1321 the eligibility period, the young adult may restore eligibility  
 1322 by improving his or her progress to the required level.



1323 4. Funds may be terminated during the interim between an  
1324 award and the evaluation for a renewal award if the department,  
1325 or an agency under contract with the department, determines that  
1326 the award recipient is no longer enrolled in an educational  
1327 institution as described in subparagraph (a)4. or is no longer a  
1328 resident of this state.

1329 5. The department, or an agency under contract with the  
1330 department, shall notify a recipient who is terminated and  
1331 inform the recipient of his or her right to appeal.

1332 6. An award recipient who does not qualify for a renewal  
1333 award or who chooses not to renew the award may immediately  
1334 apply for reinstatement. An application for reinstatement must  
1335 be made before the young adult reaches 23 years of age, and a  
1336 student may apply for reinstatement more than once. In order to  
1337 be eligible for reinstatement, the young adult must meet the  
1338 eligibility criteria and the criteria for award renewal for the  
1339 program. The department shall adopt rules necessary to establish  
1340 standards to determine whether a student meets the eligibility  
1341 criteria set for renewal and reinstatement of a Road-to-  
1342 Independence award.

1343 (3) AFTERCARE SERVICES.—

1344 (a) Aftercare services are available to young adults who  
1345 have chosen not to remain in foster care after reaching 18 years  
1346 of age and who are not receiving financial assistance under  
1347 subsection (2) to pursue postsecondary education. These  
1348 aftercare services include, but are not limited to, the  
1349 following:

1350 1. Mentoring and tutoring.

1351 2. Mental health services and substance abuse counseling.

1352 3. Life skills classes, including credit management and  
1353 preventive health activities.

1354 4. Parenting classes.

1355 5. Job and career skills training.

1356 6. Counselor consultations.

1357 7. Temporary financial assistance for emergency  
1358 situations.

1359 8. Financial literacy skills training.

1360

1361 The specific services to be provided under this paragraph shall  
1362 be determined by an assessment of the young adult and may be  
1363 provided by the community-based care provider or through  
1364 referrals in the community.

1365 (b) Temporary assistance provided to prevent homelessness  
1366 shall be provided as expeditiously as possible and within the  
1367 limitations defined by the department.

1368 (c) A young adult who has reached 18 years of age but is  
1369 not yet 23 years of age who leaves foster care at 18 years of  
1370 age may request and is eligible for such services before  
1371 reaching 23 years of age.

1372 (4) APPEAL PROCEDURE.—

1373 (a) The department shall have a procedure by which a young  
1374 adult may appeal the department's refusal to provide Road-to-  
1375 Independence Program services or support, or the termination of  
1376 such services or support if funds for such services or support  
1377 are available.

1378 (b) The appeal procedure must be readily accessible to  
1379 young adults, must provide for timely decisions, and must  
1380 provide for an appeal to the department. The decision of the  
1381 department constitutes final agency action and is reviewable by  
1382 the court as provided in s. 120.68.

1383 (5) PORTABILITY.—The services provided under this section  
1384 are portable across county lines and between lead agencies.

1385 (a) The service needs that are identified in the original  
1386 or updated transition plan, pursuant to s. 39.6035, shall be  
1387 provided by the lead agency where the young adult is currently  
1388 residing but shall be funded by the lead agency that initiated  
1389 the transition plan.

1390 (b) The lead agency with primary case management  
1391 responsibilities shall provide maintenance payments, case  
1392 planning, including a written description of all services that  
1393 will assist a child 16 years of age or older in preparing for  
1394 the transition from care to independence, and regular case  
1395 reviews that conform with all federal scheduling and content  
1396 requirements for all children in foster care who are placed or  
1397 visiting out-of-state.

1398 (6) ACCOUNTABILITY.—The department shall develop outcome  
1399 measures for the program and other performance measures in order  
1400 to maintain oversight of the program. No later than January 31  
1401 of each year, the department shall prepare a report on the  
1402 outcome measures and the department's oversight activities and  
1403 submit the report to the President of the Senate, the Speaker of  
1404 the House of Representatives, and the committees with  
1405 jurisdiction over issues relating to children and families in

1406 the Senate and the House of Representatives. The report must  
1407 include:

1408 (a) An analysis of performance on the outcome measures  
1409 developed under this section reported for each community-based  
1410 care lead agency and compared with the performance of the  
1411 department on the same measures.

1412 (b) A description of the department's oversight of the  
1413 program, including, by lead agency, any programmatic or fiscal  
1414 deficiencies found, corrective actions required, and current  
1415 status of compliance.

1416 (c) Any rules adopted or proposed under this section since  
1417 the last report. For the purposes of the first report, any rules  
1418 adopted or proposed under this section must be included.

1419 (7) INDEPENDENT LIVING SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL.—The  
1420 secretary shall establish the Independent Living Services  
1421 Advisory Council for the purpose of reviewing and making  
1422 recommendations concerning the implementation and operation of  
1423 the provisions of s. 39.6015 and the Road-to-Independence  
1424 Program. The advisory council shall function as specified in  
1425 this subsection until the Legislature determines that the  
1426 advisory council can no longer provide a valuable contribution  
1427 to the department's efforts to achieve the goals of the services  
1428 designed to enable a young adult to live independently.

1429 (a) The advisory council shall assess the implementation  
1430 and operation of the Road-to-Independence Program and advise the  
1431 department on actions that would improve the ability of these  
1432 Road-to-Independence Program services to meet the established  
1433 goals. The advisory council shall keep the department informed

1434 of problems being experienced with the services, barriers to the  
1435 effective and efficient integration of services and support  
1436 across systems, and successes that the system of services has  
1437 achieved. The department shall consider, but is not required to  
1438 implement, the recommendations of the advisory council.

1439 (b) The advisory council shall report to the secretary on  
1440 the status of the implementation of the Road-To-Independence  
1441 Program, efforts to publicize the availability of the Road-to-  
1442 Independence Program, the success of the services, problems  
1443 identified, recommendations for department or legislative  
1444 action, and the department's implementation of the  
1445 recommendations contained in the Independent Living Services  
1446 Integration Workgroup Report submitted to the appropriate  
1447 substantive committees of the Legislature by December 31, 2013.  
1448 The department shall submit a report by December 31 of each year  
1449 to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of  
1450 the House of Representatives which includes a summary of the  
1451 factors reported on by the advisory council and identifies the  
1452 recommendations of the advisory council and either describes the  
1453 department's actions to implement the recommendations or  
1454 provides the department's rationale for not implementing the  
1455 recommendations.

1456 (c) Members of the advisory council shall be appointed by  
1457 the secretary of the department. The membership of the advisory  
1458 council must include, at a minimum, representatives from the  
1459 headquarters and regional offices of the Department of Children  
1460 and Families, community-based care lead agencies, the Department  
1461 of Juvenile Justice, the Department of Economic Opportunity, the

1462 Department of Education, the Agency for Health Care  
1463 Administration, the State Youth Advisory Board, Workforce  
1464 Florida, Inc., the Statewide Guardian Ad Litem Office, foster  
1465 parents, recipients of services and funding through the Road-to-  
1466 Independence Program, and advocates for children in care. The  
1467 secretary shall determine the length of the term to be served by  
1468 each member appointed to the advisory council, which may not  
1469 exceed 4 years.

1470 (d) The department shall provide administrative support to  
1471 the Independent Living Services Advisory Council to accomplish  
1472 its assigned tasks. The advisory council shall be afforded  
1473 access to all appropriate data from the department, each  
1474 community-based care lead agency, and other relevant agencies in  
1475 order to accomplish the tasks set forth in this section. The  
1476 data collected may not include any information that would  
1477 identify a specific child or young adult.

1478 (e) The advisory council report required under paragraph  
1479 (b) must include an analysis of the system of independent living  
1480 transition services for young adults who reach 18 years of age  
1481 while in foster care before completing high school or its  
1482 equivalent and recommendations for department or legislative  
1483 action. The council shall assess and report on the most  
1484 effective method of assisting these young adults to complete  
1485 high school or its equivalent by examining the practices of  
1486 other states.

1487 (8) PERSONAL PROPERTY.—Property acquired on behalf of a  
1488 young adult in this program shall become the personal property  
1489 of the young adult and is not subject to the requirements of

1490 chapter 273 relating to state-owned tangible personal property.  
 1491 Such property continues to be subject to applicable federal  
 1492 laws.

1493 (9) MEDICAL ASSISTANCE FOR YOUNG ADULTS FORMERLY IN CARE.—  
 1494 The department or community-based care lead agency shall  
 1495 document that eligible young adults are enrolled in Medicaid  
 1496 under s. 409.903(4).

1497 (10) RULEMAKING.—The department shall adopt rules to  
 1498 administer this section.

1499 Section 8. Paragraph (a) of subsection (3) of section  
 1500 409.175, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1501 409.175 Licensure of family foster homes, residential  
 1502 child-caring agencies, and child-placing agencies; public  
 1503 records exemption.—

1504 (3) (a) The total number of children placed in each family  
 1505 foster home shall be based on the recommendation of the  
 1506 department, or the community-based care lead agency where one is  
 1507 providing foster care and related services, based on the needs  
 1508 of each child in care, the ability of the foster family to meet  
 1509 the individual needs of each child, including any adoptive or  
 1510 biological children or young adults remaining in foster care  
 1511 living in the home, the amount of safe physical plant space, the  
 1512 ratio of active and appropriate adult supervision, and the  
 1513 background, experience, and skill of the family foster parents.

1514 Section 9. Subsection (4) of section 409.903, Florida  
 1515 Statutes, is amended to read:

1516 409.903 Mandatory payments for eligible persons.—The  
 1517 agency shall make payments for medical assistance and related

1518 services on behalf of the following persons who the department,  
1519 or the Social Security Administration by contract with the  
1520 Department of Children and Family Services, determines to be  
1521 eligible, subject to the income, assets, and categorical  
1522 eligibility tests set forth in federal and state law. Payment on  
1523 behalf of these Medicaid eligible persons is subject to the  
1524 availability of moneys and any limitations established by the  
1525 General Appropriations Act or chapter 216.

1526 (4) A child who is eligible under Title IV-E of the Social  
1527 Security Act for subsidized board payments, foster care, or  
1528 adoption subsidies, and a child for whom the state has assumed  
1529 temporary or permanent responsibility and who does not qualify  
1530 for Title IV-E assistance but is in foster care, shelter or  
1531 emergency shelter care, or subsidized adoption. This category  
1532 includes a young adult who is eligible to receive services under  
1533 s. 409.1451~~(5)~~, until the young adult reaches 21 years of age,  
1534 without regard to any income, resource, or categorical  
1535 eligibility test that is otherwise required. This category also  
1536 includes a person who as a child was eligible under Title IV-E  
1537 of the Social Security Act for foster care or the state-provided  
1538 foster care and who is a participant in the Road-to-Independence  
1539 Program.

1540 Section 10. Effective January 1, 2014, a child or young  
1541 adult who is a participant in the program shall transfer to the  
1542 program services provided in this act, and his or her monthly  
1543 stipend may not be reduced, the method of payment of the monthly  
1544 stipend may not be changed, and the young adult may not be  
1545 required to change his or her living arrangement. These



1546 conditions shall remain in effect for a child or young adult  
1547 until he or she ceases to meet the eligibility requirements  
1548 under which he or she entered the Road-to-Independence Program.  
1549 A child or young adult applying or reapplying for the Road-to-  
1550 Independence Program on or after January 1, 2014, may apply for  
1551 program services only as provided in this act.

1552       Section 11. For fiscal year 2013-2014, the sums of  
1553 \$601,029 in recurring funds and \$26,334 in nonrecurring funds  
1554 from the General Revenue Fund in the Grants and Aids-Community  
1555 Based Care for Providers of Child Welfare Services appropriation  
1556 category within the Department of Children and Families shall be  
1557 transferred to the Grants and Aids-Child Protection  
1558 appropriation category, also within the Department of Children  
1559 and Families, for legal case reviews associated with the  
1560 requirements of this legislation. For fiscal year 2013-2014, the  
1561 sum of \$1,044,000 from the General Revenue Fund in the Grants  
1562 and Aids-Community Based Care for Providers of Child Welfare  
1563 Services appropriation category within the Department of  
1564 Children and Families shall be transferred to the Computer  
1565 Related Expenses appropriation category, also within the  
1566 Department of Children and Families, for enhancements to the  
1567 Florida Safe Families Network. For fiscal year 2013-2014, the  
1568 sums of \$523,269 in recurring funds from the General Revenue  
1569 Fund and \$41,382 in nonrecurring funds from the General Revenue  
1570 Fund in the Grants and Aids-Community Based Care for Providers  
1571 of Child Welfare Services appropriation category within the  
1572 Department of Children and Families shall be transferred to the  
1573 Grants and Aids-Child Protection appropriation category, also

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2013

1574 | within the Department of Children and Families, for the purposes  
1575 | of providing oversight and resources for the postsecondary  
1576 | educational campus coaching positions, pursuant to this  
1577 | legislation. This section shall take effect July 1, 2013.

1578 |       Section 12. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this  
1579 | act and except for this section, which shall take effect upon  
1580 | this act becoming a law, this act shall take effect January 1,  
1581 | 2014.