



# If You Live With Your Parent When You Turn 18, You Could Become Ineligible for the Aged Out Foster Youth Benefits You Were Promised!



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Beginning August 2014, CPS has a new policy regarding certain aging out benefits such as transitional living allowance, after care room and board, and the education and training voucher. **The new rule is that if you are living or staying with a parent when you turn 18 and age out of care, you will NOT get many aged out foster youth benefits.** "Parent" means both biological and adopted parent, including parents who had their rights terminated. You will lose your benefits even if CPS has managing conservatorship of you when you turn 18 or if your caseworker placed you with your parent.

In the past, a foster youth who was living with or staying with a parent when they turned 18 would still qualify for aged out foster youth benefits as long as CPS had conservatorship when they turned 18. (Conservatorship means that there is a court order saying CPS is in charge of you.) This is no longer true! Because this is a new policy, many people working with foster youth don't know about it. **If you are being told you can go live with your parent and still get all your benefits, you should insist that the PAL program discuss the issue with you and your caseworker. Show them this flyer if you need to. You can also contact the Texas Foster Youth Justice Project at 877-313-3688 or [info@texasfosteryouth.org](mailto:info@texasfosteryouth.org) for free guidance and help.**

The benefits you lose if you live with your parent when you turn 18 are:

- Transitional Living Allowance - up to \$1000
- After Care Room and Board - up to \$500/ month not to exceed \$3000 (based on need/emergency)
- Case Management
- Education and Training Voucher (ETV)- up to \$5000/ year for education related expenses

Living with your parent will NOT affect your eligibility for:

- Former Foster Care Children's (FFCC) Medicaid
- Tuition and Fee Waiver

But you must still meet individual eligibility requirements for Medicaid and Tuition and Fee Waiver.



**If you are an aged out foster youth who was receiving aged out foster youth benefits and services and were told you will no longer receive them because you lived with a parent when you turned 18, please contact the Texas Foster Youth Justice Project toll free at 877-313-3688 or [info@texasfosteryouth.org](mailto:info@texasfosteryouth.org). The Project has helped other young adults get benefits restored.**

Has CPS said they have nowhere to place you and that you can stay with your parent until you turn 18?

Are you thinking about running away to your parent's home before you turn 18?

If so, **TALK TO SOMEONE FIRST** about other options you might have so you won't lose your benefits!

**Think about it:** if you go live with your parents and things don't work out, you will have already given up your right to receive aged out benefits. What will you do? It will be very difficult to get the help with housing, food, education, and employment that you need.

There are other ways to start building a relationship with your parents; you can ask your caseworker, CASA, or attorney to help you set up visits with them and create a plan for keeping in contact with them.

### Living with a Parent After Turning 18

If you go to live with a parent **after** aging out of foster care and you did not live with a parent when you turned 18, **you may still be able to get all the aged out foster youth benefits and services.** But keep in mind that if the parent you now live with was the person who abused or neglected you, **CPS first has to decide that your parent does not pose a threat to your health and safety** before they can give you the benefits or services.

### ETV Eligibility for Adoption/Permanency Care

If you were adopted or placed in "permanency care" after you turned 16 and before you turned 18, you can still qualify for the Education and Training Voucher (ETV benefits). (Permanency Care is a program where a close relative or other person gets custody of you and there is a written agreement that CPS will give your caregiver monthly payments.) Since CPS no longer has conservatorship of you when you are adopted or in permanency care, **it doesn't matter that you live with a parent when you turn 18.**

For more detailed information on this topic, visit the [Aging Out section](#) at [texasfosteryouth.org](http://texasfosteryouth.org).

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