

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

CHILDREN'S DIVISION

P.O. BOX 88

JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI

September 1, 2005

MEMORANDUM**What's Inside**

- Recommendation for involvement of ILP Specialists in permanency planning.
- Referral to policy on consultation & referrals to ILP Specialists.
- Highlights of resources that ILP Specialists have knowledge of.

TO: REGIONAL EXECUTIVE STAFF, CIRCUIT MANAGERS
AND CHILDREN'S DIVISION STAFF

FROM: FREDERIC M. SIMMENS, DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAM SPECIALISTS ARE
INTEGRAL IN HELPING TO IDENTIFY AND PROVIDE
SERVICES TO OLDER YOUTH IN FOSTER CARE

REFERENCE: CHILDREN'S DIVISION

DISCUSSION:

The purpose of this memorandum is to remind Children's Service Workers about the importance of involving Independent Living Program Specialists in permanency planning and exit strategies for our older youth.

ILP Specialists should be utilized as a support to case managers working with older youth and should be a regular member of the Family Support Team. ILP Specialists can offer valuable information to the youth and other Family Support Team members. ILP Specialists are able to share their knowledge of community resources, in order for youth to access employment, mentoring, driver's education, etc. Specialists are engaged in positive youth development and are able to advocate on behalf of the youth and provide training to staff and community members on promoting youth involvement.

Utilizing ILP Specialists as a support resource should increase the likelihood of a youth's successful transition to adulthood. They can often offer a valuable perspective no matter what the permanency goal may be.

Child Welfare Manual Section 4, Chapter 21, contains information on how and when to get a youth involved in the Chafee Foster Care Independence Program. This chapter details policy on when to refer youth to ILP Specialists for Chafee services (Chapter 21.3.3). It contains specific instructions on referral of youth to ILP Specialists for Pre-ILP Services (Chapter 21.4.1.b) and how ILP Specialists may assist case managers in identifying support systems for youth (Chapter 21.6.3).

To contact the ILP Specialist in your area, go to the Chafee Foster Care Independence Program webpage at www.dss.mo.gov/cd/chafee/ or see the [ILP Specialists Map](#) available here at a glance.

NECESSARY ACTION:

1. Review this memorandum and Memorandum [CS05-02](#) with all Children's Division Staff.
2. Review Child Welfare Manual [Section 4, Chapter 21 Chafee Foster Care Independence Program](#) with all Children's Division staff.
3. All questions should be cleared through normal supervisory channels.

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CHILD WELFARE MANUAL REVISIONS:

N/A

RELATED STATUTE: Section 477 of Public Law 106-169 ; Public Law 99-272

ADMINISTRATIVE RULES: N/A

COUNCIL ON ACCREDITATION (COA) STANDARDS:

G3.3.01; G8.4.02; G8.5.04; G9.10; S21.3.03; S21.6

PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT PLAN (PIP): P1.10.2.d & P1.10.3.f

FMS/TP:js

Attachments:

[ILP Specialists Map](#)