



PA19-AD-06

# Practice Alert

## TRANSITIONAL LIVING PLACEMENTS AND SUBSIDY AGREEMENTS

An increasing number of requests for subsidy to be negotiated for Transitional Living Placements have been submitted for consideration. TLP's are intended for youth whose permanency goal is not reunification, adoption or legal guardianship and for youth who will exit the foster care system to live on their own. The purpose of these placements are to provide a path for the youth to transition from alternative care to self-sufficiency because they don't have the support of biological or adoptive parent, or guardian to teach them the life skills needed to transition from adolescence to adulthood. Youth receiving an adoption or guardianship subsidy do not meet this eligibility criteria; therefore Children's Division is not obligated to provide this service through a subsidy agreement.

Adoptive parent(s) or guardian(s) receive a maintenance payment. This payment is used to offset the cost of food, clothing, shelter, daily supervision, school supplies, and a child's personal incidentals. Once the adoption assistance agreement is signed and the child is adopted, the adoptive parents are free to make decisions about expenditures on behalf of the child without further agency approval or oversight. Hence, once an adoption assistance agreement is in effect, the parents may spend the subsidy in any way they see fit in support of the child. If the adoptive parent feels the youth cannot remain in or return to their home after a stay in an alternate placement such as residential, it is the responsibility of the adoptive parent(s) or guardian(s) to make these arrangements for the child using the maintenance payment to support the child in the alternate arrangement.

Additional services offered through a subsidy agreement, other than the basic services, are specifically named in the Adoption and Guardianship Subsidy regulations. These services are IIS, Residential Care, and Youth with Elevated Needs Level B placement. The purpose of these additional services is to treat the child so they may be successfully reintegrated in the adoptive or guardianship home. These services, as well as other therapeutic or support services, are to be offered to the families as part of the subsidy negotiation to facilitate stable adoptive or guardianship placements or reintegration. However, if the adoptive parent(s) or guardian(s) is unwilling to be a part of this process in any out of home placements and has no desire for the child to be returned to their home, these additional services may not be authorized through subsidy.

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