

	INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES CHILD WELFARE POLICY	
	Chapter 11: Older Youth Services	Effective Date: August 1, 2015
	Section 7: Voluntary Older Youth Services	Version: 2

STATEMENTS OF PURPOSE

DCS will ensure that Voluntary Older Youth Services (OYS) are available through contracted OYS service providers in every county in the state for youth who meet the eligibility criteria in policy [11.02 Eligibility for Older Youth Services](#).

Code References

[42 USC 677 John H. Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood](#)

PROCEDURE

The Family Case Manager (FCM) or Collaborative Care Case Manager (3CM) will refer all eligible youth as identified in separate policy, [11.02 Eligibility for Older Youth Services](#) for Voluntary OYS.

The 3CM will assist in the referral of a youth who was a ward or in the custody of another state once eligibility is established through contact with the other state.

The Independent Living (IL) Specialist will:

1. Provide follow-up with the OYS service providers to ensure that appropriate services are being provided to youth who are eligible for voluntary services and request services according to the OYS Service Standards; and
2. Provide assistance to all OYS service providers regarding eligibility for youth referred for Voluntary OYS.

PRACTICE GUIDANCE

Closure of Voluntary Services Cases

Voluntary OYS will end when:

1. The youth has achieved interdependence to the extent that financial support and social service support are no longer needed;
2. The youth has made a voluntary decision not to participate in the program;
3. The youth has been adopted and no longer desires to continue in services;
4. The youth has consistently demonstrated unwillingness or inability to participate in services or follow the terms of the voluntary agreement; or
5. The youth turns 21 years of age.

Note: An OYS provider shall not refuse OYS to any youth without approval from the IL Specialist, after staffing with his or her supervisor.

Relocating to another Region

If the youth moves to a region other than the region where he or she was a CHINS, JD/JS, or Collaborative Care youth and chooses to access Voluntary OYS, the youth or OYS provider must notify an OYS team member. The 3CM will create an appropriate Voluntary OYS service referral.

Reinitiating Services

Youth who have been previously discharged from Voluntary OYS either voluntarily or involuntarily may contact their previous OYS provider to reinitiate services without a new referral unless a new referral is needed.

FORMS AND TOOLS

[OYS Service Standards](#)

RELATED INFORMATION

Services Available

Youth age **18 up to the day before the youth's 21st birthday** who have left foster care will be offered guidance on financial issues, assessment services, housing, health care, counseling, employment, education opportunities, and other support services as identified in the [OYS Service Standards](#).

Voluntary Participation

Youth leaving foster care or former foster youth requesting Voluntary OYS must participate on a voluntary basis with the service provider for case management services, according to the [OYS Service Standards](#). This agreement outlines the services to be provided, the length of time expected for the service, and the plan for the youth's contribution. In addition, the IL Learning Plan must include an operational plan describing how the young adult is going to assume responsibility once assistance ends.