

	INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES CHILD WELFARE POLICY	
	Chapter 11: Older Youth Services Section 22: Voluntary Collaborative Care (CC) Agreement	
	Effective Date: January 1, 2026	Version: 4

POLICY OVERVIEW

The Voluntary Collaborative Care (CC) Agreement gives older youth an outline of what to expect in CC and explains the older youth's rights and responsibilities after they join.

POLICY STATEMENT

DCS will ensure older youth who are eligible and want to join CC complete and sign the paperwork on or after their 18th birthday (see policy [11.18](#)).

To officially open a CC case, the following must occur in the order below:

1. The Child in Need of Services (CHINS) or Juvenile Delinquency/Juvenile Status (JD/JS) case must close;
2. A Voluntary Collaborative Care Agreement Between Older Youth and the Department of Child Services form must be signed by the older youth and a DCS Older Youth Initiatives (OYI) team member the **same day** as the CHINS or JD/JS case closes; and

Note: This agreement is effective on the date the last party has signed.

3. The Voluntary Collaborative Care Agreement Between Older Youth and the Department of Child Services form and the CC petition must be filed:
 - a. In the same county where the youth was a ward and where they will continue to live,
 - b. In the county where the youth was a ward, but they are moving to a different county, a Motion for Change of Venue must also be filed in the county the youth lives in, or
 - c. In the county where the youth lives if they were previously discharged from care and wish to re-enter CC.

LEGAL REFERENCES

- [IC 31-28-5.8-2: "Collaborative care agreement"](#)
- [465 IAC 2-15.1-10: "Voluntary collaborative care agreement" or "VCCA" defined](#)