

If I discharge from care and am still under age 21, can I re-enter care?

Yes! The new law, Act 91, allows you to re-enter foster care if:

- you discharged when you were 17 and 9 months or older;
- are still under age 21; and
- are engaging in one of the activities that would qualify you for extended foster care (see the other side of this pamphlet)

If I re-enter foster care, where will I be placed?

You can be placed in any of the placements that you could for extended foster care (see the other side of this pamphlet). There is much more flexibility for placement options when you are age 18 or older. If you have ideas for placement or resources, let your worker, lawyer, and judge know.

Who should I contact if I am interested in re-entering foster care?

You can contact your former county caseworker, IL worker, or lawyer/GAL. You can also call your county child welfare agency and let them know you want to talk about re-entering care. If you are having trouble getting help, you can call Juvenile Law Center at 1-800-875-8887.

Juvenile Law Center
The Philadelphia Building
1315 Walnut Street, Suite 400
Philadelphia, PA 19107

Phone: 215.625.0551
In PA: 800.875.8887
Fax: 215.625.2808

www.jlc.org

**Know Your Rights:
Extended Foster Care
and Re-entry
In PA**

Juvenile Law Center
advancing the rights and well-being of children in jeopardy

Rights are things that are guaranteed to you by law and regulation. When you have a right to a certain service or a way of being treated, a judge can make sure that you get what the law requires. Your rights are also tools to help you advocate for yourself.

Can I stay in care after age 18?

Yes! A new law called Act 91 allows you to stay in foster care up to age 21 if you are doing any the following:

- Completing high school or an equivalent program;
- Enrolled in a post secondary education or vocational program;
- Participating in a program to help you get a job;
- Employed for at least 80 hours per month; or
- Cannot do any of the activities listed above because of a documented behavioral health or medical condition

Why would I want to stay in care after age 18?

Most youth are not ready to leave home and support themselves at age 18. They need more time to develop the skills, ability, and finances to live on their own. Staying in care past age 18 can help make sure you are ready for independence by giving you more time to:

- Get your education
- Get job training so you can get a good job
- Address any medical or mental health issues
- Get help reconnecting or connecting with family, kin, and a solid support system
- Save money
- Learn and practice life skills

What should I do if I want to stay in care past age 18?

Let your lawyer, caseworker, and IL worker know! Your county may have a form to fill out. You can also write your own request or use the form on Juvenile Law Center's website by using the following link:

<http://goo.gl/s3oQm>

Where can I live if I remain in care past age 18?

Where you live depends on your needs, your skills, and your wishes. Here are some examples of places you could live:

- Remain in your current foster, kinship or group home
- Move to a new foster, kinship or group home
- Move to a transitional living placement
- Move to a supervised independent living placement, such as a supervised apartment
- Live with an approved identified resource
- Live in a college dormitory during the school year and in one of the settings listed above during school breaks
- Other settings approved by the court

If you have a good idea for a living arrangement that would work for you and is safe, including a relative or another resource who could find you a place to live, let your caseworker, lawyer, and court know. The child welfare agency has more flexibility to create a placement that works for you once you turn age 18.