



## CONCILIATION

### *Where Can I Live?*

As a part of your conciliation consent order, the order will state where you are placed. Some clients will be commuting to school from their foster home or group home. Other clients will reside on campus and will return to a designated individual or placement during times when the dormitories are closed.

#### Why does everyone keep asking me for my address and phone number and e-mail address?

In order to be involved in this process and receive any support from the agency, people must know where you are residing. If for any reason your address or contact information should change, for example you get moved to a different dormitory midway through the semester or you change cell phone numbers or you get a new e-mail address, please notify your KidsVoice attorney and/or child advocacy specialist as soon as possible. It is also important that you share any changes or new information with anyone else involved with your case, such as your CYF caseworker or ILI caseworker.

#### What happens if I am going to school and leaving my group home and will be living on campus? Where do I go for breaks?

CYF will assist you with housing during periods when the dormitories are closed, most often winter and summer breaks. In some instances, you might have a relative or family friend that you'd like to stay with during that time and that we discussed during the initial conciliation meeting. If that is the case, the court order may state that is where you are to go during breaks. If you identify a potential placement after school starts then please notify your KidsVoice attorney and/or child advocacy specialist as soon as possible. We can get in touch with the right people from CYF to see if it is a possibility for you to go there during breaks. This will require CYF to complete background checks and a home visit with that individual before you are permitted to stay there, if background checks have not already been done.

Sometimes, the conciliation court order will not specifically state where you are going during breaks but will state that CYF will provide housing during that time. If you truly have nowhere to go and no one identified to go with, it is important that you keep in touch with your KidsVoice attorney and/or child advocacy specialist and let them know in advance the dates of your breaks so that the agency knows when they need to find and provide you appropriate housing.

#### What if my plans change and I can no longer go to the person I thought I could go to during breaks?

Again, this is why it is so important to keep in touch with your KidsVoice attorney and/or child advocacy specialist, as well as the caseworker assigned to your case. The sooner we know that your plans have changed the sooner everyone can work on finding you a new place to stay. You have a better chance of giving input about where you want to go if you are telling people about this in advance. Keep in mind that CYF will still have to investigate any proposed placement and it can take them a few weeks to complete this process.



What if I am commuting from my placement and things fall apart?

If you are commuting from a group home or foster home and something happens such that you can no longer reside there, you need to talk to your KidsVoice attorney and/or child advocacy specialist as soon as possible. We can let the agency know what is going on and schedule a time to talk to them about your situation. You will have to come in and participate in a conciliation review meeting where you will have the opportunity to tell people what is going on and your thoughts about where you can go.

Is there anyone I cannot live with?

In order to be involved in the conciliation process and continue to receive support from the agency while you attend school you cannot live with the following:

1. Biological parent. This program is for clients who do not have parents who can be placement resources for them while they go to school.
2. Anywhere other than what is stated in your court order. You also cannot reside outside of the placement indicated in your court order. If you no longer want to be in your placement, you need to tell people so that arrangements can be made to explore alternative placements and the court can be advised if your placement changes. Anywhere you stay has to be approved by CYF.
3. A boyfriend or girlfriend (intimate partner).

Every client who wants ongoing support from the agency while they attend a post-secondary education program MUST go through the conciliation process and MUST have their placement approved by the agency. The decision to continue with the support of the agency is voluntary on your part. If you decide that you no longer want to be involved in the dependency court system, thereby forgoing any support from the agency, then you are free to decide where you want to reside but your involvement in the system and your support will end.

What if I no longer want CYF and court involvement? Can I continue to get support from the agency while I attend school?

Yes. If you would like to transition out of the system and into your own housing or remain where you are placed provided that they do not need paid (ex., grandmother is your foster mother and she is okay with you staying there and not receiving foster care payments), then you should call your KidsVoice case team and talk to them about what you are planning. It is possible that you may be able to close to a DHS Contract. **Remember that you cannot get a DHS contract after you have moved out of a placement. You need to request one before you move!**