

1 1. To ensure that eligible individuals, who have been or are in
2 the foster care program of the Department of Human Services or a
3 federally recognized Indian tribe with whom the Department has a
4 contract, due to abuse or neglect, receive the protection and
5 support necessary to allow those individuals to become self-reliant
6 and productive citizens through the provision of requisite services
7 that include, but are not limited to, transitional planning,
8 housing, medical coverage, and education; provided, that eligibility
9 for tuition waivers shall be as set forth in Section 3230 of Title
10 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes;

11 2. To break the cycle of abuse and neglect that obligates the
12 state to assume custody of children; and

13 3. To help children who have experienced foster care at age
14 fourteen (14) or older achieve meaningful permanent connections with
15 a caring adult.

16 C. An individual is eligible to receive services for the
17 transition of the child to a successful adulthood from the age of
18 fourteen (14) until the age of eighteen (18), during the time the
19 individual is in the custody of the Department or a federally
20 recognized Indian tribe and in an out-of-home placement.

21 D. The permanency plan for the child in transition to a
22 successful adulthood shall be developed in consultation with the
23 child and, at the option of the child, with up to two members of the
24 permanency planning team to be chosen by the child, excluding the

1 foster parent and caseworker for the child, subject to the following
2 provisions:

3 1. One individual selected by the child may be designated to be
4 the advisor and, as necessary, advocate of the child, with respect
5 to the application of the reasonable and prudent parent standard to
6 the child; and

7 2. The Department may reject an individual selected by the
8 child to be a member of the permanency planning team at any time if
9 the Department has good cause to believe that the selected
10 individual would not act in the best interests of the child.

11 E. 1. Each child in foster care under the responsibility of
12 the Department or a federally recognized Indian tribe and in an out-
13 of-home placement, who has attained fourteen (14) years of age shall
14 be given a written Notice of Rights that describes the following
15 specific rights of the child:

- 16 a. the rights of the child with respect to education,
17 health, visitation, and court participation,
- 18 b. the right to be provided with the documents specified
19 in subsection F of this section, and
- 20 c. the right to stay safe and avoid exploitation.

21 2. The child shall sign an acknowledgment stating that the
22 child has been provided with a copy of the Notice of Rights and that
23 the rights described in the notice have been explained to the child
24 in an age-appropriate way.

1 F. A child about to leave foster care by reason of having
2 attained eighteen (18) years of age and who has been in foster care
3 for at least six (6) months shall be given the following documents
4 pertaining to the child:

5 1. An official or certified copy of the United States birth
6 certificate;

7 2. A Social Security card issued by the Commissioner of Social
8 Security;

9 3. Health insurance information;

10 4. A copy of the medical records of the child;

11 5. A state-issued driver license or identification card; and

12 6. Official documentation necessary to show that the child was
13 previously in foster care.

14 G. Successful adulthood services may continue to the age of
15 twenty-one (21), provided the individual is in the custody of the
16 Department or a federally recognized Indian tribe due to abuse or
17 neglect and is in an out-of-home placement at the time of the
18 individual's ~~eighteenth~~ sixteenth birthday.

19 H. Individuals who are sixteen (16) years of age or older, who
20 have been released from the custody of the Department or federally
21 recognized Indian tribe due to the entry of an adoption decree or
22 guardianship order are eligible to receive successful adulthood
23 services until the age of twenty-one (21).

24

1 I. Individuals who are eligible for services pursuant to the
2 Successful Adulthood Act and who are between eighteen (18) and
3 twenty-one (21) years of age shall be eligible for Medicaid
4 coverage, provided such individuals were also in the custody of the
5 Department or a federally recognized Indian tribe on the date they
6 reached eighteen (18) years of age and meet Medicaid financial
7 eligibility guidelines.

8 J. The Department, in conjunction with the Oklahoma State
9 Regents for Higher Education, shall provide parents and legal
10 guardians of foster youth with information on the Oklahoma Higher
11 Learning Access Program (OHLAP) including, but not limited to,
12 eligibility, application guidelines, academic requirements, and any
13 other information required by the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access
14 Act for participation in the Program.

15 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2021.

16

17 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILY
18 SERVICES, dated 02/16/2021 - DO PASS, As Coauthored.

19

20

21

22

23

24