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| <i>Child Protection Act R.S.P.E.I. 1988, Cap. C-5.1</i> | Program | Children in Care | |
| | Subject | Extended Service | Policy # 2.3 |
| Effective Date: July 5, 2010 | | Authorized by: Carol Anne Duffy | |
| Revised Date: November 1, 2013 | | Deputy Minister | |

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 Where a person in the permanent custody and guardianship of the Director of Child Protection reaches the age of eighteen (18) years, the Director of Child Protection **may** enter into a written agreement with the person for continued services to prepare the person for independent living. Extended Service may be considered where the person is a student or a participant in an approved educational, training or rehabilitative program or the Director considers there are unusual circumstances which necessitate special transitional supports until the person reaches twenty-one (21) years of age or the Director considers there is no longer a need for services.

2.0 POLICY STATEMENT

- 2.1 Child Protection Social Workers are expected to provide children in the permanent care of the Director of Child Protection with information about Extended Service. Child Protection Social Workers and caregivers have a responsibility to collaborate with children in the permanent care of the Director of Child Protection to ensure preparation for independence.
- 2.2 The Child Protection Social Worker is responsible for ongoing discussions with a child in the permanent care of the Director of Child Protection and caregiver regarding transition to independence and the option of Extended Service. Discussions are to begin no later than the age of sixteen (16) years and must be documented in the child's file.
- 2.3 Six (6) months prior to the child's eighteenth (18) birthday, if the child wishes to initiate an Extended Service request, the child will discuss their independence plan and present their request in writing to the Child Protection Social Worker. The child is responsible for initiating a request for Extended Service unless deemed unable to do so on their own behalf.
- 2.4 The Child Protection Social Worker will work with the child to explore appropriate options and determine supports required. It is expected that the young person will attend educational, training or rehabilitative programs on Prince Edward Island unless extenuating circumstances e.g. comparable program not available.

- 2.5 When a plan is developed that can be supported by the Child Protection Social Worker then the Child Protection Social Worker will present the child's written plan to the Child Protection Supervisor and the Director of Child Protection for review and consideration.
- 2.6 The Child Protection Social Worker will arrange a meeting with the child, Child Protection Supervisor, and Director of Child Protection to present and discuss this plan for approval.
- 2.7 The Director of Child Protection has sole discretion to approve or deny a child's request for Extended Service and there is no appeal process.

Extended Service - Approved

- 2.8 Upon the approval of the Director of Child Protection, the initial Extended Service Agreement must be signed with the effective date to be the child's eighteenth (18) birthday. A copy will be provided to the child and the original placed on the child's file.
- 2.9 At age eighteen (18) years, the child ceases to be a child in care and becomes a young person receiving Extended Service.
- 2.10 The young person will be required to provide documentation (e.g. academic transcripts, letters of acceptance to educational / training programs, etc.) as requested throughout the duration of the Extended Service Agreement.
- 2.11 The Child Protection Social Worker will review the Extended Service Agreement with the young person every three (3) months to ensure the service objectives are being met.
- 2.12 The Extended Service Agreement will be formally reviewed annually with the young person, caregiver (if appropriate), Child Protection Supervisor, and the Director of Child Protection.

Extended Service - No Application

- 2.13 Children in the permanent care of the Director of Child Protection who reach the age of eighteen (18) years and have not requested Extended Service, will be provided with information on how to make an Extended Service request in the future. Requests can be made to the Director of Child Protection until the young person reaches the age of twenty-one (21) years. The child's decision not to request Extended Service will be documented on the child's file.

Extended Service - Denied

- 2.14 In consultation with the child, the Child Protection Social Worker, Child Protection Supervisor, and caregiver (if appropriate), the Director of Child Protection may make a decision to deny a child's request for Extended Service. This decision will be explained to the child and the child will be informed of eligibility to reapply until they reach the age of twenty-one (21) years. A written explanation of the decision will be provided to the child and a copy placed on the child's file.

In the event of a subsequent application for Extended Service, as submitted in writing by the young person, the Child Protection Supervisor, caregiver (if appropriate) and the Director of Child Protection will meet with the young person to review the proposed plan. The Director of Child Protection may or may not approve this plan. The decision will be explained to the young person and the young person will be informed of eligibility to reapply until they reach the age of twenty-one (21) years. A written explanation of the decision will be provided to the young person and a copy placed on the young person's file.

Extended Service - Terminated

- 2.15 The young person may terminate an Extended Service Agreement at any time. The young person's decision to terminate will be documented on their file and they will be informed that they are able to reapply until the age of twenty-one (21) years.
- 2.16 The Director of Child Protection may terminate an Extended Service Agreement at any time. This decision will be explained to the young person and the young person will be informed of eligibility to reapply until they reach the age of twenty-one (21) years. A written explanation of the decision will be provided to the young person and a copy placed on the young person's file.

Supports Available

- 2.17 Grade twelve (12) graduation costs may include graduation fees as established by the school, basic package for graduation pictures, up to \$300 for the purchase of graduation related clothing or purchase of school graduation ring.
- 2.18 The Child Protection Social Worker will support the young person in applying for student loans, bursaries, and scholarships (if applicable), and determine the young person's ability to make a financial contribution to the caseplan (e.g. part time employment, etc).
- 2.19 All tuition costs, books and student fees related to the caseplan will be paid by the young person as required by the educational institution.
- 2.20 The young person may be reimbursed for tuition, books and student fees up to a maximum of \$10,000. Reimbursement will be based on the young person's demonstrated commitment to the program as assessed by the Child Protection Social Worker based on attendance / participation, grades, young person's feedback, instructor feedback, acquired certifications, etc.

The Child Protection Social Worker will make a reimbursement recommendation to the Child Protection Supervisor which will be forwarded to the Director of Child Protection for review and approval.

Reimbursement will be paid directly to the educational institution or lending authority.

2.21 The Child Protection Social Worker must ensure the young person's living arrangement is appropriate, to include a supportive living arrangement based on needs, given this support is necessary for healthy emotional development. The best option must be assessed and agreed to by the young person and Child Protection Social Worker and be presented as part of the request for Extended Service. The options may include :

- supervised room and board in former foster home young person resided on 18th birthday - financial supports will be the current Child Care Reimbursement monthly rates for seventeen (17) years of age and will be paid directly to the service provider. The service provider is responsible for the young person's food, shelter, personal comfort and supervision. The level of supervision will be determined by the caseplan. The clothing portion will be paid directly to the young person. Transportation and all other expenses will be the responsibility of the young person.
- supportive room and board - financial supports for the youth to include food, shelter, personal comfort and supervision, will be based on rates up to the current Child Care Reimbursement monthly rates for seventeen (17) years of age and may be paid directly to the service provider. The rate will be determined by the caseplan and the service provided to the young person. The clothing portion will be paid directly to the young person. Transportation and all other expenses will be the responsibility of the young person.
- residence of an educational institution - financial supports will be based on costs per the educational institution including meal plan. If no meal plan is available, food costs will be paid directly to the young person at Social Program rate. The young person will also be eligible for a Personal Comfort Allowance at the Social Program rate. The Child Care Reimbursement monthly clothing rate for seventeen (17) years of age will be paid directly to the young person. Transportation and all other expenses will be the responsibility of the young person. Per diem rates for room and board will be considered when the young person is returning to a former foster home during educational breaks, summer holidays, etc.
- other supported living arrangements may be considered as requested

2.22 Young persons approved for Extended Service are eligible for continued services to include medical, dental and optical coverage.

2.23 It is the Child Protection Social Worker's responsibility to ensure the educational institution is informed of the young person's continued medical, optical and dental coverage as provided by the Provincial Government program. This confirms the young person is opting out of the educational institutional health benefits plan.

2.24 Young persons over the age of eighteen (18) years are no longer eligible for Children's Special Allowance.

HISTORY:

- July 5, 2010 - editorial and format changes
- July 13, 2011 - editorial and format changes
- November 1, 2013 - editorial and format changes; clarity on process/supports; Foster Care Contract no longer applicable to Extended Service