

Consult Your Regional Independent Living Program Specialist When:

- **A youth is 17 years old or older**

The IL Specialist can help the team develop the young adult's transition plan, answer questions about Extension of Foster Care Services (as applicable), explain DCS Post-Secondary Education Funding & IL Wrap Funding for things like senior graduation expenses.

- **A special needs youth (Adult Mental Health/DIDD) that is 17 years old or older**

The IL Specialist will be a part of the team, along with the regional Adult Transition Specialist, to provide guidance regarding referrals to adult services. The IL Specialist may be able to assist the team in identifying available housing options in the community as needed, when a special needs youth turns 18-years-old or is released from DCS custody after age 18. Mental Health must be addressed as a concern in the Transition Plan.

- **You have questions about the Casey Life Skills Assessment**

This includes accessing the Casey Life Skills website, administering an assessment, and entering scores into TFACTS under assessments.

- **A youth is 16 years old or older & is in need of a state photo ID**

The IL Specialist can provide you with written instructions & the State of Tennessee Minor Teenage Affidavit for a Photo Identification License form.

- **You have questions about the Protocol for Continued TennCare Eligibility for Youth Aging Out of Foster Care**

- **You have questions about IL Wrap Funding**

(i.e. what IL Wrap Funds can help provide, what the limits are, etc.)

- **A youth 14-years-old or older if the team needs help with the IL Plan**

- **A youth is interested in Youth 4 Youth Leadership Board participation**

The IL Specialist can provide information regarding a Youth 4 Youth Leadership Board in the young adult's area, meeting dates, times, etc.

- **You have a young adult that is 60 days or less from turning 18-years-old or being released from JJ custody & he/she might benefit from Youth Villages LifeSet Services**

The IL Specialist can assist with the referral process & answer questions that the team or young adult might have about such services

- **A former custodial young adult makes contact with a DCS representative and asks for assistance with needs such as housing, post-secondary education, employment, etc.**

The IL Specialist may be able to refer the young adult to community-based resources, Youth Villages LifeSet or Re-Establishment of Foster Care Services.

- **A youth that was adopted or exited custody to Subsidized Permanent Guardianship at or after age 16-years-old & needs assistance**

The IL Specialist can determine if the young adult is eligible for DCS post secondary funding, answer questions about FAFSA completion, determine if the young adult is eligible for the Youth Villages LifeSet, refer the young adult to potential community resources that might meet his/her needs.

- **If you, a youth or his/her team has questions regarding Independent Living Services, LifeSet Services, IL Policies or Extension of Foster Care Services**

- **You need assistance preparing for Foster Care Review Board meetings and court reviews of Permanency Plans for youth 16 years of age and older**