

Extended Support Services Agreement (ESSA)

The Child Protection Worker may extend support services for young adults who were youth in permanent custody of the Director of Child and Family Services, when they attain the age of majority until they reach the age of 23 years.

REFERENCE

Child and Family Services Act section 6.1, 6.2, 6.3(1)(2)(3)
Department of Health and Social Services Policy

PURPOSE

- To ensure youth in permanent care receive the assistance they need to transition out of care to be successful as adults.
- To provide supplementary support (financial and non-financial) to youth transitioning out of permanent care as required;
- To ensure community support currently available are utilized as first priority so as not to duplicate or replace existing programs in the NWT.

PROCEDURE

At least six (6) months prior to a youth reaching the age of majority (19 years old) the Worker will:

1. Review and if required, revise the young adult's *Transition Plan* with the transitioning youth to identify and assess any supports or services that are deemed necessary to successfully transition out of the custody of the Director of Child and Family Services and into adulthood.
2. Determine an implementation plan where the worker and transitioning young adult will explore resources available through other agencies to support the plan. See *Extended Support Services Agreement (ESSAs) – Support Schedule* tool.
 - The Worker may make referrals as necessary and may participate when requested by the transitioning young adult in joint meetings with other partners (i.e.: transition to long-term adult services, Public Guardian).
 - A joint support and monitoring agreement may be established with other partners additionally.
 - Family reunification may be discussed and sought.

Effective Date:
April 1, 2016

Director of Child and Family Services



- Additional costs may be considered for the young adult to support their attendance at academic institution outside of the Northwest Territories.

3. Establish with the young adult while using the *Transition Plan* form:

- Goals to be accomplished and what success looks like;
- Interim steps for reaching each goal;
- Resources to be provided by the Authority, Government Departments (e.g. NWT Housing Corporation) family members, community organizations and other key people;
- Timeframes for reviewing progress toward goal achievement;
- Follow-up or alternative steps that should be taken if goals are not achieved.

Once the young adult has attained the age of 19 years, the Worker will:

- Review and finalize supports and services as detailed in the *Transition Plan* to be provided under and ESSA with the young adult and/or revise as necessary.
- Complete the *Extended Support Services Agreement and Case Plan* form. Obtain the young adult's signature and the Supervisor's signature.
 - This agreement will outline the obligations and expectations accepted by the transitioning individual and the Director of Child and Family Services.
 - In cases of expenses greater than Support Services Agreement (SSA) room and board rates by community, the Worker with the Supervisor will consult with and receive the written approval of the Assistant Director.
- Place the original ESSA on the new file opened, and give a copy to the young adult.
- Contact for monitoring of the young adult's success with the agreement should be as often as reasonably required to give support and advice but no less than monthly by phone and once a month face to face (unless the individual is participating in a program in a remote or outside of Northwest Territories location).
 - If the young adult is not following the plan, not communicating or misusing funds, the Worker will attempt an intervention outlining expectations in writing.
 - The young adult or Worker may terminate the ESSA upon request or if the young adult is not meeting the goals and criteria of the ESSA. Any discussion to terminate the agreement requires the Worker to consult with their Supervisor.
 - Termination requires 15 days' notice in writing to the other parties.
 - Termination of a plan does not preclude the young adult from applying and

potentially being reconsidered in the future (until the young adult's 23rd birthday).

- The *Extended Support Services Agreement* form may be renewed for terms of up to six (6) months at a time and the individual may opt in and out of services during this timeframe but the agreement must end by the individual's 23rd birthday.

FORMS

- Extended Support Services Agreement and Case Plan (ESSA)
- Budget for Extended Support Service Agreements (19-22 years old)
- Transition Plan

TOOLS

- Elements of a Transition Plan
- Extended Support Services Agreement (ESSA) – Support Schedule

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