



Turning 18?

You Have a Choice to Stay in Care!

An important new law gives foster youth more options to remain in foster care and receive services and support until age 21!

What do I need to be doing to stay in care past age 18?

You need to be doing **at least one** of the activities listed below:

- Completing high school or an equivalent program;
- Enrolled in college, community college, or trade school;
- Participating in a program that will help you get a job;
- Working at least 80 hours per month; or
- You cannot do one of the activities listed above because of medical or mental health condition.

Why would I want to stay in care past age 18?

Staying in foster care past age 18 can help you meet your goals for the future. If you remain in care, you will:

- Have a place to live;
- Have health insurance and access to medical and mental health treatment providers;
- Get support from people like social workers, case managers, your lawyer, and child advocates who can assist you in getting the services and supports you need in planning for your future; and
- Have court reviews of your case and be able to talk to your lawyer and a judge about your needs or problems you are facing.

Who do I talk to about staying in care after age 18?

You can talk to:

- Your county caseworker, private provider case worker, and Independent Living worker
- Your lawyer and your CASA
- The Youth Advisory Board (www.independentlivingpa.org)
- Call Juvenile Law Center at 1-800-875-8887

What if I left care when I turned 18, but now I've changed my mind?

If you left care when you were 18 or older and are still under 21, you may be eligible to re-enter foster care. To re-enter foster care you need be doing or agree to do one of the activities listed above. You can get help making this happen. **Call your lawyer or Juvenile Law Center at 1-800-875-8887 if you have questions about re-entering foster care.**