

## AB 12: California Fostering

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### Resources

[www.cafosteringconnections.org](http://www.cafosteringconnections.org)

[www.california-adoption.org](http://www.california-adoption.org)

[www.chapinhall.org](http://www.chapinhall.org)

[www.caichildlaw.org/  
MiscAB12FactSheet-02.13.09.pdf](http://www.caichildlaw.org/MiscAB12FactSheet-02.13.09.pdf)

### AB 12: California Fostering Connections to Success Act



*“Children are  
likely to live up to  
what you believe  
of them”*

*—Lady Bird Johnson*

*Contra Costa County*

*Children & Family  
Services*

## Did you know?

- After a foster youth ages out they are far more likely to endure:
  - homelessness, poverty, compromised health, unemployment and incarceration
- 50% of former foster youth will be homeless during their first two years of exiting foster care.

## What is California doing about it?

### ~AB 12~

- Signed into law on September 30, 2010
- Will go in effect on January 1, 2012
- Participation is voluntary
- Foster youth can decide to exit foster care at age 18, or anytime before they turn 20/ 21
- Foster youth have the option to reenter foster care before they turn 20/ 21 through a **“Voluntary Re-entry Agreement.”**



## Overview of AB 12

### Benefits to extending foster care

- Helps youth transition with lifelong connections to caring adults
- Increases postsecondary education attainment
- Receives Medi-Cal, clothing allowance, and case management and Independent Living Program Services



### What do social workers need to do now?

- Educate youth starting six months before they turn 18 years of age about AB 12.
- Schedule the Youth Transition Meeting (YTM) 90 days before the youth turns 18.
- Ensure the case plan and the court report address AB 12 at the 6 month hearing review before the youth's 18 birthday.

### Who is Eligible?

Youth who turn 18 years old on or after January 1, 2012 can participate if they qualify for one of the following conditions:

- Foster youth
- Foster youth or ward who is placed with an approved relative and remains in care until 18 and relative receives CalWorks
- Adopted youth who have an AAP agreement signed at 16 or older
- Kin GAP youth who have a Kin GAP agreement signed at 16 or older
- Guardian youth if Juvenile Court ordered guardianship

### Eligibility Criteria

- Complete high school or equivalent program (ex. GED); OR
- Enroll in college, community college or vocational education program; OR
- Participate in a program that removes barriers to employment; OR
- Employ at least 80 hours a month; OR
- Unable to do one of the above requirements because of a medical condition

### Requirements to receive foster care benefits after age 18

- Must sign a mutual agreement for supervision and support
- Continue under the jurisdiction of the Juvenile Court as a dependent
- Must reside in an eligible, supervised foster care placement
- Complete a Transitional Independent Plan
- Work with the Social Worker
- Meet one of the 5 eligibility criteria



### Foster care placements include:

- THP+ Foster care
- Home of a relative or NREFM
- County FFA
- Foster home
- Home of a non related legal guardian
- Group home (with limitations)
- Supervised Independent Living Setting

### Continued Court Jurisdiction



- New name for youth 18 to 21 years of age is "Non minor Dependents"
- 6-month review hearing in court
- Case reviews in respecting the youth's status as a legal adult
- Parents are not noticed, nor are parties to the hearing



For updates please call ILSP at (925) 957-2400

Toll Free (866) 994-ILSP

[Www.cocoilsp.org](http://www.cocoilsp.org)