Presentation

LIFESAVERS CONFERENCE

NOT ALL NEEDS ARE EQUAL:
LEVELING THE PLAYING FIELD FOR TEENS…
… IN FOSTER CARE

FLORIDA’S KEYS TO INDEPENDENCE
March 15, 2020

www.GuardianadLitem.org
Normalcy for foster care kids attempted – not achieved

- Memo after Memo
- Federal Questions to Youth (NYTD)
- Quality Parenting for Children in Foster Care Act
- A Voice Heard (Survey of Youth in Foster Care)

Normalcy Bill - 2014
Learning to drive is more than a rite of passage

- Learning to drive is a necessity and a normal part of being a teenager
- Not having a driver’s license is a barrier to:
  - Employment
  - Continuing education
  - Normal extracurricular activities
  - Visit friends and family
In 2013, fewer than 20 out of 2000 foster youth (16+) statewide had a drivers license
Obstacles identified for driving
Guardian ad Litem did study on overcoming obstacles

Florida laws related to kids driving
Your must look to your laws

If the State of Florida is your parent, who will teach you how to drive?
Statewide program to remove barriers for youth in foster care (ages 15-21) to obtain a drivers license.

Provides access to:

Prepaid testing codes (4Hour & Permit Exam)

Behind the wheel driving lessons

Pick up/drop off service for lessons and road test

Assistance with auto insurance

Reimbursement of certain Fees
Finding the Keys

- Propose “Keys to Independence Pilot Act” sometimes called “K2I”
- Finding a Champion and Educating Legislators
- 3 year Pilot Project authorized by 2014 legislative session
  - F.S. 409.1454
  - $800,000 recurring appropriation
- Education, data collection, liability fears, expansion of eligibility, contract out to non-profit, priority drivers education for youth in foster care
Eligibility Requirements

• Youth 15 up to 21 years old in foster care:
  ➢ Have an open Out-of-Home dependency case
  ➢ In licensed foster care/group care placement
  ➢ In a relative/non-relative placement
  ➢ In Extended Foster Care (EFC)

• Special Conditions for youth 15 up to 21 years old in foster care:
  ➢ Achieved permanency (case closure, adoption, permanent guardianship, reunification or leave care); awarded 6 months from permanency date.
  ➢ Youth in PESS and After Care also have 6 months from initial date of case and placement status.
What Are the Steps to Getting a License?

1. 4-Hour Course
2. Learner’s Permit Exam
3. Learner’s Permit Fee
4. Behind the Wheel
5. Driver’s License
# Keys to Independence

How much does it cost for a parent to get their teenager a driver’s license?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXPENSES</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Four hour driver’s education course</td>
<td>$17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learner’s license exam and license fee</td>
<td>$71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Six hour driving course including use of car, pick up and drop off</td>
<td>$360</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average car insurance for one year</td>
<td>$3052.88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$3500.88</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Minors: K2I provides auto insurance support to licensed participants under 18 with no conditions (unless youth achieved permanency)

Extended Foster Care: Youth in Extended Foster Care are eligible for up to six months of auto insurance support through K2I

Post Permanency: K2I will review post permanency applications for insurance funds on a case by case basis. Turning 18 and court ordered placements are included in the definition of “permanency” to age 18.5

PESS: Youth in PESS are reviewed on a case by case for one insurance payment or the minimum payment required to start the policy.
627.746 Insurance; Insurance Rates and Contracts: Statute relates to minors with a learner’s license. An insurance agency is prohibited from increasing a households insurance policy premium for foster youth with only a permit; and until the minor obtains a driver’s license.

322.09(4) Motor Vehicles; Driver Licenses; Application of minors; responsibility for negligence or misconduct of minor: Statute relates to any authorized adult (case manager, GAL, residential group home representative, foster parent, or caregiver) does not assume any obligation or become liable for any damages caused by a minor, after signing for the application for the foster youth.

http:// keysto in dependencefl.com/resources/florid a-statutes
Permits can be more beneficial than a State ID

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>State ID</th>
<th>Learner's License</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Valid for</td>
<td>5 years</td>
<td>8 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid for by</td>
<td>Lead Agency</td>
<td>K2I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allowed to drive w/ licensed adult</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allowed to take lessons w/ driving school</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Represents an achievement</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

www.GuardianadLitem.org
The Non-Profit with the contract

CLICK HERE FOR A STEP BY STEP GUIDE ON HOW TO GET YOUR DRIVER’S LICENSE

www.GuardianadLitem.org
How has K2I Done?

- **Education – ongoing**

- **Trainings held around the state include:**
  - Youth, lead agency staff, foster parents, case managers, GAL’s, residential providers, DCF staff
  - Outreach contract with Educate Tomorrow
  - Law Enforcement partnership / GAL partnership

- **Webinars**

- **Dedicated website, English & Spanish**

- **Social media presence, quarterly newsletters, statewide conferences/meetings**

[www.GuardianadLitem.org](http://www.GuardianadLitem.org)
Partners and Community Support

- Donated cars
- Car loan program
- Driver’s Education
- Incentive Program

- Spanish language resources
- National Interest
- Website [www.k2l.org](http://www.k2l.org)
- 2017 permanent in statute
Making it Permanent

- Data Demonstrated Success
- Expand the eligibility
- Allow GAL to sign with permission of caregiver
- Cost projections clear
- Youth and other stakeholders offered compelling testimony
- Legislature cared / Governor cared
- Everyone, including me, had a 15 year old getting ready to drive
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal year</th>
<th>Permits</th>
<th>Licenses</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FY 14-15</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY 15-16</td>
<td>164</td>
<td>64</td>
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<td>FY 16-17</td>
<td>199</td>
<td>111</td>
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<tr>
<td>FY 17-18</td>
<td>353</td>
<td>180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY 18-19</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Life of Program</td>
<td>794</td>
<td>385</td>
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