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POLICY 1202 – BASIC LIFE SKILLS ASSESSMENT

A. POLICY

Youth grow and develop at different paces and are exposed to diverse opportunities where they gain life experiences. Assessment tools are necessary to gain an understanding on the self-sufficiency skill areas that the youth needs to focus on developing.

B. PROCEDURES

1. All youth in a foster care placement setting, age fourteen (14) and older, shall be assessed for their ability to participate in services pertaining to life skills, education, and vocation.
2. For youth age 14-15, the caseworker shall complete the Life Skills Checklist referencing the Self-Sufficiency Benchmarks and Service Standards document, also known as the 'Blue Book', within thirty (30) days of their 14th birthday or upon entry into foster care if the youth enters foster care over the age of 14. This assessment will be repeated every six months until age 16 and documented in the Child Plan and Child Plan Review.
3. Life Skills Checklist is the recommended assessment tool for youth aged 14-15. For youth 16 and older who are served by a Delaware Independent Living (IL) provider, the Casey Life Skills Assessment must be used as the assessment tool.
4. The IL service provider is responsible for completing the assessment and documenting the results in the FOCUS (For Our Children's Ultimate Success – automated information system) IL referral for youth 16 and older when IL services are contracted.
5. As part of the assessment, the caseworker or IL contracted provider will include interviews with the youth, case manager(s), foster parent(s), caregiver(s), relatives, and other significant adults.
6. The assessment shall analyze the youth's needs and competencies of basic life skill areas including:
 - a) Money management
 - b) Cultural competency awareness
 - c) Consumer awareness
 - d) Food management
 - e) Hygiene and personal appearance
 - f) Health, physical and mental
 - g) Housekeeping
 - h) Transportation
 - i) Educational planning
 - j) Job seeking skills and maintenance skills
 - k) Emergency and safety skills
 - l) Knowledge of community resources

- m) Interpersonal skills
- n) Legal issues and rights

7. For some youth, structured life skills assessment and independent living case planning may not be possible. The reason(s) why an assessment and case planning could not be completed shall be documented in the IL Case in FOCUS.
8. The caseworker and/or contracted service provider shall advocate/and coordinate the completion of a formal educational assessment if needed. The caseworker shall share any pertinent information from an educational assessment with the contracted providers.

C. FOCUS

Caseworkers document assessment results in the Child Plan and Child Plan Review

- D. FORMS** Use the DFS policy website to access any forms:
<https://kids.delaware.gov/policies/dfs-policies>

Blue Book

Life Skills Checklist

Casey Life Skills Assessment <https://caseylifeskills.secure.force.com/>