

**TUSCARAWAS COUNTY JOB & FAMILY SERVICES  
CHILDREN SERVICES POLICY**

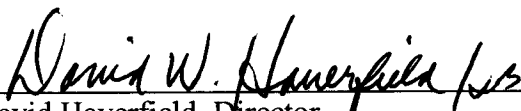
**LIFE SKILLS ASSESSMENT AND INDEPENDENT LIVING PLAN  
FOR CHILDREN IN CUSTODY**

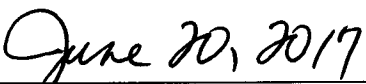
**POLICY**

A life skills assessment is conducted with each youth in agency custody who has reached fourteen years of age in order to establish the youth's need for an independent living plan of services to assist the youth in transitioning from foster care to independent living.

**PROCEDURE**

1. Within sixty days of a youth in custody becoming fourteen years of age or coming into placement, whichever occurs first, a life skills assessment is to be completed. Input into the assessment is to be provided by the youth, the youth's caretaker, and the youth's case manager.
2. Within thirty days of the completed life skills assessment, an independent living plan is developed utilizing the results of the life skills assessment. Input from the youth, case manager, caregiver, and significant persons in the youth's life should guide the formation of the plan. The plan is to include contact information for significant persons such as names, addresses, and phone numbers.
3. Each independent living plan should address the family, academic, post-secondary education, career preparation, financial management, housing and home management, health education, and risk prevention supports or skills the youth will require to successfully transition to independence.
4. A copy of the independent living plan is to be provided to the child, along with any future updates to the plan.
5. Life skills services may be provided by mentors, foster caregivers, agency staff, community agencies, organization, schools, or institutions.
6. On a monthly basis, the youth's case manager will review the youth's progress toward the plan objectives. Modifications to the plan are to be made as necessary to meet the needs of the youth.
7. Agency staff will inform caregivers of training opportunities and will provide informational materials regarding life skills and independent living. Informational materials will be provided to the youth including the following: availability of Independent Living services following emancipation, the Education Training Voucher Program to assist with the cost of post-secondary education, the Ohio Youth Advisory Board, and available community resources.
8. Prior to emancipation, the youth in foster care is to be provided a copy of his/her health and education records, certified birth certificate, Social Security card, and documentation that the youth had been in agency custody at the time of emancipation.

  
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David Haverfield, Director

  
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Effective Date