

## BUTLER COUNTY CHILDREN SERVICES

POLICY NO.: 6.1	SUBJECT: <b>INDEPENDENT LIVING REQUIREMENTS</b>
OAC: 5101:2-42-19	EFFECTIVE DATE: 8/1/01
	REVISION DATE: 1/27/04
	REVIEW DATE: 8/22/06, 8/1/08

**PURPOSE:** To ensure that every child who has attained the age of sixteen is prepared for transition from agency custody to independent living.

### POLICY:

1. Life skill services shall be provided to each child in custody who has attained the age of sixteen (16) to prepare for the transition from agency custody to independent living. This policy is based on OAC 5101:2-42-19. Life skill services and placement in an independent living arrangement may be continued for an individual over eighteen (18) years of age, for whom the juvenile court has retained jurisdiction and continued a dispositional order, to enable the individual to graduate from high school or vocational school.
2. The caseworker will conduct or obtain a life skill assessment for each child who is in agency custody and who has attained the age of sixteen (16) in order to prepare for the transition from substitute care to independent living. A life skill assessment will be completed not later than sixty (60) days following the sixteenth birthday of the individual or not later than sixty (60) days after the individual enters into agency custody if sixteen (16) years of age or older.
3. A written independent living plan, designed to achieve self-sufficiency, shall be developed within thirty (30) days of the completion of the assessment. The plan will be reviewed at least every ninety (90) days thereafter until the agency's custody is terminated. (See Independent Living Plan.)
4. Independent living services based on the assessment shall include issues or concerns related to the following:
  - Securing and maintaining a residence including basic home maintenance.
  - Landlord/tenant rights and responsibilities.
  - Home management including food preparation, nutrition, cleaning, laundry, and home safety.
  - Shopping which includes purchasing food, household supplies and clothing.
  - Money management, budgeting and banking.
  - Utilization of community services and systems such as transportation, libraries, and assistance programs.
  - Operating a motor vehicle and obtaining an operator's license and insurance.

- Utilization of leisure time.
- Personal care, hygiene, health insurance and safety.
- Personal decision making and communication skills.
- Evaluating personal education needs.
- Planning for job and career development.
- Securing and maintaining employment.
- Pregnancy prevention and/or parenting skills.
- Personal health care needs including education about avoidance of drug and alcohol abuse, risky sexual behavior, and smoking.
- Building a positive self-image and self-esteem.
- Development of positive adult relationships and support systems.

**PROCEDURE:**

1. The Daniel Memorial Assessment is the preferred assessment tool of the agency. Following an assessment, progress will be reviewed every ninety (90) days (OAC 5101: 2-42-19 (E)). When a caseworker is aware of a child who meets the requirements, the assessment form may be requested from the Independent Living Coordinator. If a child is placed in a substitute care setting outside of a Butler County foster home, the assessment packet will be provided to the Network by the Independent Living Coordinator.
2. Upon completion of the assessment, the caseworker will refer the child for Independent Living Services. Children who are in Networks, which do not provide this service, may be referred to the Independent Living Skills Class which is provided by the BCCS or another program which is approved by the administration. (See referral form for ILSC.) The caseworker is responsible to ensure that the child is receiving this service.
3. The caseworker will be provided a copy of the assessment to be maintained in the child's record. The caseworker must also document the Independent Living Services the child is receiving. If the child's placement should change at any time, the worker will notify the Independent Living Coordinator by completing the ILS Placement Changes form. Rules regarding placement of a child in an independent living arrangement may be found in OAC 5101:2-42-19.1.



Michael A. Fox, Executive Director