



**State of Florida
Department of Children and Families**

Rick Scott
Governor

Mike Carroll
Secretary

DATE: June 8, 2017

TO: Regional Managing Directors
Community-Based Care Lead Agency CEOs

THROUGH: David L. Fairbanks, Deputy Secretary *[Signature]*

FROM: JoShonda Guerrier, Assistant Secretary for Child Welfare *[Signature]*
Vicki Abrams, Assistant Secretary for Operations *[Signature]*
Grainne O'Sullivan, Statewide Director for Children's Legal Services *[Signature]*

SUBJECT: Children Obtaining Driver Licenses – Senate Bill 60

PURPOSE: The purpose of this memorandum is to provide notice of recent statutory changes pertaining to children obtaining driver licenses and procedures for ensuring compliance with the new requirements.

BACKGROUND: The Keys to Independence Act went into effect July 1, 2014, establishing a three-year pilot project aimed at removing barriers for children in licensed care to learn to drive safely and obtain a driver license. The project has benefited numerous children by assisting them with costs associated with obtaining driver's education, driver's licenses and motor vehicle insurance.

Through the enactment of Senate Bill 60, effective May 1, 2017, the Keys to Independence program has now become permanent, the program's eligibility has been expanded and the program provides incentives to facilitate more participation. The new law:

- Revises the pilot program to make it a permanent program [s. 409.1454, Florida Statutes];
- Eliminates obligation or liability for damages caused by the minor for a Guardian ad Litem (GAL) who signs for the minor driver's permit if the GAL was authorized by a minor's caregiver [s. 322.09(4), Florida Statutes];
- Authorizes the program to pay for a child in out-of-home care (rather than only in a licensed foster care placement) to complete a driver education program and obtain a driver license or the related costs of licensure under certain circumstances [s. 409.1454, Florida Statutes];
- Allows the program to pay for a child to complete a driver education program and obtain a driver license for up to six months after the date the child reaches

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- permanency status or six months after the date the child turns 18 years of age [s. 409.1454(4), Florida Statutes];
- Allows youth in the Extended Foster Care program to be eligible to have the costs of licensure and any incidental costs associated with the licensure to be covered by the program, if the child demonstrates that such costs are creating barriers for obtaining employment or completing educational goals [s.409.1454(4), Florida Statutes];
- Amends s. 39.6035 (1), Florida Statutes, addressing the child's transition plan to include language about obtaining a driver license;
- Requires the court to determine, for any child who is 15 years of age or older, if appropriate steps are being taken for the child to obtain a driver license or learner license [s. 39.701(2)(c)12, Florida Statutes]; and
- Requires written verification that the child has information on how to obtain a driver license or learner license to be included in the social study report for judicial review held within 90 days after the child's 17th birthday [s. 39.701(3)(a)15., Florida Statutes].

To ensure compliance with the new statutory requirements noted above, Case Managers and/or Independent Living Specialists should complete the following:

- Create a "Case Plan Task" in the Florida Safe Families Network (FSFN) for children 15 years of age and older to obtain a driver license or learner license;
- Attach the Keys to Independence program application and any relevant documentation in the "Optional Attachments" section of the Case Plan Worksheet in FSFN;
- Update Transition Plans to include necessary information regarding youth obtaining a driver's license;
- Complete the "Valid Driver's License or Florida Identification Card" Field and/or provide written verification that the child has information on how to obtain licensure in the Judicial Review Worksheet for children 17 years of age and older.

For additional information about the Keys to Independence program, visit this website:
<http://www.keystoindependencefl.org>.

ACTION REQUIRED: Please share this memorandum as appropriate with Community-Based Care Lead Agency personnel, Case Management Organizations, Independent Living Service providers, Regional DCF Family Safety Program Offices, and CLS Regional Directors.

CONTACT INFORMATION: If you require additional information or have questions, please contact Brandie McCabe, Independent Living Specialist, Office of Child Welfare at (850) 491-0204 or Brandie.McCabe@myflfamilies.com.

cc: Regional Family and Community Services Directors
Center for Child Welfare
Statewide Guardian ad Litem Office
Florida State Foster and Adoptive Parent Association