

## Survey for Youth Aging out of Foster Care

### ***Your Foster Care Experience – Background***

How old were you when you first entered foster care? \_\_\_\_\_

How long were you in foster care? (Please answer in years and months) \_\_\_\_\_

What was the total number of placements you had during your time in foster care? (Ok to estimate) \_\_\_\_\_

How many different schools did you attend while in foster care? (Ok to estimate) [Break down into levels of school or #of schools during recent placement??] \_\_\_\_\_

How many DSS caseworkers *in total* did you have? \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Experience with DSS Caseworkers</b>	1 Strongly Disagree	2 Disagree	3 Neutral	4 Agree	5 Strongly Agree
When caseworkers visited me they usually tried to speak with me privately.					
My caseworkers were people I could talk with.					
Thinking of your <b><i>most recent</i></b> DSS caseworker:					
I had access to my caseworker when needed.					
My caseworker was informed about the details of my case.					
When I talked to my caseworker I felt like my concerns were heard.					
My caseworker ensured that I got to participate in normal activities like my friends.					
My caseworker helped me to understand the court process					
I felt like my privacy was protected.					

<b>Involvement in Your Case Plan and Decision-Making</b>	Yes	No	--		
I participated in at least one family partnership meeting			IF NO, SKIP TO NEXT QUESTION--		
	1 Strongly Disagree	2 Disagree	3 Neutral	4 Agree	5 Strongly Agree
My participation in family partnership meetings was important to me					
I was encouraged to invite adults I value and who are close to me to the meetings.					
I felt like my opinions were heard during the meetings					
<b>(Skip pattern resumes here)</b>					
My caseworker asked me for input into my case plan.					
My caseworker used information from me to develop my case plan.					
I was informed about my placement(s) in foster care <i>before</i> they happened.					
I received the services I needed while in care.					
I was encouraged to give my opinion about services I received.					
Decisions about prescription medication were made with my participation.					
My caseworker worked with me on my transition plan for leaving foster care.					
I have a clear plan for where I will go when I leave foster care.					

**FOSTER CARE PLACEMENT**

What type of setting(s) did you live in? (Drop-down menu)

Foster family

Relative

Non-relative

Group home

Residential care

What type of setting did you live in most recently? (Drop-down menu)

Foster family

Relative

Non-relative

Group home

Residential care

<b>Experience with MOST RECENT Foster Care Placement</b>	--				
	1	2	3	4	5
	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
My most recent foster care placement met my needs.					
I received treatment equal to the other children or youth in the home/placement.					
My foster parents or placement providers knew a lot about me and what I liked to do.					
My foster parents/or placement providers supported my religious background.					
My foster parents/or placement providers support your gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation.					
My cultural background was respected (heritage, beliefs, or traditions).					
I was treated like a family member.					

My foster parents/placement providers allowed me to go out to see friends.					
I was encouraged to participate in after school activities and field trips.					
I felt I was punished fairly for things I was not supposed to do.					
I was allowed to use a phone to text or make calls					
I had enough clothing to wear that fit me.					
I had enough of the kinds of food I like to eat.					
I felt encouraged to spend time with friends.					
My foster parents/placement providers recognized the good things that I did.					
Supportive adults attended events important to me (such as school achievements, competitions, and ceremonies).					
My foster parents/placement provider took care of me when I was sick or had an accident.					
I was allowed to contact my DSS case worker, Guardian Ad Litem (attorney) or others when I asked.					
My family birth order affected me in my placement.					

Rate the following on a scale of 1 to 10 the degree to which you're foster parents/ or placement provider were a:

- Coach (listened and gave advice)
- Advocate (fought for your rights)
- Networker (created connections and supports)

1      2      3      4      5      6      7      8      9      10

<b>Connection with Biological Family Members</b>	Yes	No	Doesn't Apply to Me – I didn't have siblings in foster care

Were you placed with your siblings when you came into foster care?			IF N/A SKIP TO QUESTION --		
	1 Strongly Disagree	2 Disagree	3 Neutral	4 Agree	5 Strongly Agree
I kept contact with my sibling(s) as frequently as I felt comfortable with.					
I was able to have visitation with my sibling(s) when I wanted.					
My interactions with my sibling(s) were positive.					
<b>(Skip pattern resumes here)</b>					
I was allowed to call my birth parents or other family members when I wanted.					
My birth parents were involved with my care and case plan decisions.					
I had visitation with my birth parents when I wanted.					
I received information about family members when I requested it.					
When I wanted to I was able to attend family events like birthdays and holiday celebrations.					
I was encouraged to express my feelings about my birth family.					
When I leave foster care I will be returning to live with my birth family.					

Transition Statement: We often hear from youth who were in foster care that they were not always encouraged or even permitted to do the same things as their friends that would help prepare them for young adulthood.

<b>Life as a Teenager</b>	<b>Transportation Options</b>	Yes	No	Doesn't Apply to me
I wanted a driver's license and was able to get one.				

I was allowed to use the car or given access to a car when I asked.			
My car insurance was paid for.			
I was able to have my own car.			
I had access to public transportation.			
I was allowed in a friend's car to lots of places.			
	<b>Personal Finances</b>		
I had spending money of my own.			
I had an opportunity to manage my own bank account.			
I learned how to pay my own bills.			
I learned how to do my taxes.			
I learned how to apply for college or vocational program financial aid.			
	<b>Employment</b>		
I was encouraged to seek employment.			
There were supportive adults that helped me secure employment.			
I was encouraged to try volunteering.			

<b>My OVERALL Experience in Foster Care</b>					
	1 Strongly Disagree	2 Disagree	3 Neutral	4 Agree	5 Strongly Agree
I was allowed to make mistakes.					
I had supportive adults in my life that helped me learn from my mistakes.					
I feel prepared to live on my own.					
I had a good plan for where I would go when I					

left foster care.					
Foster care increased my chance of succeeding.					
Foster care helped prepare me for my future.					

In what three primary areas do you think foster parents need additional training? [Set-up as a drop-down or multiple choice]

What could your caseworker have done to help you feel secure as you prepared to transition out of care?

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