

## Guidance for Youth on Entering or Re-Entering Extended Foster Care

Thank you for your ongoing work to provide support and services to children, youth and families. Your commitment to keeping families and youth connected and supported during this stressful time is truly appreciated.

The temporary change to the Extended Foster Care WAC allowing youth who want to enroll or re-enroll in Extended Foster Care the ability to give verbal consent to the terms of the Voluntary Placement Agreement and the Participation Agreement expired August 28, 2020. The WAC will revert to the previous rule. See below:

### WAC 110-90-0110 How does a youth agree to participate in the extended foster care program?

- (1) An eligible dependent youth can agree to participate by:
  - (a) Signing an extended foster care agreement; or
  - (b) For developmentally disabled youth, remaining in the foster care placement and continuing in an appropriate educational program.
- (2) An eligible nondependent youth who did not elect to participate in the program on their eighteenth birthday can agree to participate by:
  - (a) Signing a voluntary placement agreement (VPA) before reaching age twenty-one; or
  - (b) Establishing a nonminor dependency before reaching age twenty-one if the department denied entry into the program.
- (3) An eligible nonminor dependent youth requesting to reenter the program may agree to participate by signing a VPA prior to reaching age twenty-one.
- (4) In order to continue receiving extended foster care services after entering into a VPA with the department, the youth must agree to the entry of an order of dependency within one hundred eighty days of the date that the youth is placed in foster care pursuant to a VPA.

### Process

When working with a youth who is entering the program, review the documents with the youth and have them sign or e-sign (if they are able) the documents providing their consent to participate in the program. E-signed documents are treated the same as any other signed agreement form.

### Questions

We appreciate your flexibility and creativity as we work together to find the best solutions to keep our youth connected and safe. If you have questions regarding Extended Foster Care, contact Sherrie Flores at [sherrie.flores@dcyf.wa.gov](mailto:sherrie.flores@dcyf.wa.gov) or 360.489.5280.