

Getting Started Addendum Working with Older Youth 14-18

(This guide will take place over several conversations)

- Introduce yourself as CASA assigned to the case.
 - Ask what their pronouns are, What do they want to be called?
- Ask if youth has any previous experience with a CASA. If yes, explain what might be different about your advocacy. If not, explain what your role will be.
- Empower the youth by acknowledging they are in charge of their life and you are only along to help
- Have they participated in and do they understand their Transitional Living Plan?
- What is going on in their life now
 - School
 - Employment
 - Living Situation/Budget
 - Medical Care
 - Social Life
 - Family Relationships
 - Other
- What are their biggest challenges? Successes?
- Is there anything they need which you might be able to help? What are their immediate needs?
- How do they feel about the support system that might be in place?
 - Family
 - Case Worker
 - Law Guardian
 - Other resources
- What interests do they have? Are they pursuing these interests?
- Strengths/Weaknesses? (Good opportunity to start thinking about these)
- What is the most effective way to proceed?
 - Contact frequency?
 - Confirm Contact Method
- Request a day and time they might be able to meet. Is there a particular day/time for chatting that will work on a regular basis for them
- Discuss/Plan what your next steps might be.

Working with Youth in Independent Living Age 18-21

In addition to the above, below are some other considerations when getting started with a youth in Independent Living

- Acknowledge the youth's independence
- Acknowledge the strength it takes to be independent and living on their own
- Do they have access to the following documents?
 - Birth Certificate
 - Social Security Card
 - Health Insurance Card
 - Q Card
- Who is their emergency contact? What is their contact information?
- What is best about living on their own? Worst?

Remember you are looking to develop a positive working relationship with young adults so be mindful to proceed without judgment and take time to build a positive relationship.