



# Special Entitlements for Youth in DCF Care

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# Educational Surrogate for Youth in DCF

Appointed by Commissioner of Education in place of parent to advocate for educational needs and educational decision making for youth:

- Already in Special Ed
- Suspected of needing Special Ed or 504

Surrogate can continue until age 21 if client consents or child's graduation from high school, whichever is first.

CGSA 10-94g and 34 CFR 300.519

# Education Consultants

- Assigned to DCF Area Offices and Parole Services
- Provide consultation and training to staff
- Assist to assure each child in DCF care receives appropriate educational services



# Educational Stability

**Arguably the most important right for many children committed to DCF**

- Children in out-of-home care have right to remain in school of origin
- Decision made by DCF
- Presumption that child will remain in school of origin
- Decision governed by BIOC
- 603

Conn. Gen. Stat. 17a-16a

# Raise the Grade: DCF and Education

- DCF must include description of educational status and academic progress in case plan of each child or youth
- Must include current levels of educational performance, absenteeism and supports/services provided to improve academic performance
- Educational status information must be included in reports to Juvenile Court and reviewed by the court when decisions are made regarding child's care.

# Post Secondary Education

DCF may offer funding for PSE to youth who:

- Are committed to DCF at 18<sup>th</sup> birthday
- Have obtained diploma or equivalent
- Demonstrate interest and ability to pursue accredited PSE program

Must be approved by DCF PSE consultant

# Dept. of Mental Health and Addiction Services

## Young Adult Services

DHMAS YAS can provide

- clinical services
  - case management
  - residential services
  - educational/employment services
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- Youth must meet eligibility of mental health diagnosis
  - DCF can continue to serve youth

# Department of Developmental Services

DSS services include

- residential services and in-home supports
- day services and employment supports
- family support, respite, case management
- transportation
- interpreter services
- clinical services



# Department of Developmental Services

## Eligibility for DSS services

- IQ of 69 or below
- significant limitations in adaptive functioning that began during before age 18





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Fighting for the Legal Rights of Connecticut's Most Vulnerable Children

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