

Important Tips for Sharing the Child Profile with Older Youth

Know that all youth have a right to their Child Profile.

- Youth aging out of care have a right to their Child Profile.
- Child Profiles should be shared with youth over the age of 14 if they request it.
- Youth are entitled to a copy of their Child Profile from the county when they leave the system.
- The Child Profile is the youth's information. Exercise confidentiality.

Plan for sharing the Child Profile before the youth leaves care.

- Plan to share information from the Child Profile with the youth well before they leave care.
- Consider asking the county to refer additional services, such as Child Preparation, to support the youth with processing the information.
- Make sure the Child Profile is current within the year. Request for the county to make a referral for a new Child Profile or a Child Profile Addendum if needed.

Select an adult who has a supportive relationship with the youth to share the Child Profile.

- Youth should not read the Child profile on their own.
- It is not necessarily the responsibility of the Child Profile writer to share the profile with the youth.
- A child welfare professional or another supportive adult who knows the youth and can answer the youth's questions would be a good choice.
- More than one person could collaborate to share the Child Profile with the youth.

Allow the youth to lead the sharing of information.

- Listen to the youth's account, as it may be different from what is in the profile.
- Make sure the youth know they can stop when enough is enough. Be sensitive to the youth's ability to process the information and avoid sharing too much at one time.

Consider the youth's emotional vulnerability while sharing the Child Profile.

- Prepare to deal with youth's reactions, which could include anger, shame, grief, disbelief or indifference.
- Prepare to present information from the Child Profile in a clear and organized way that youth can easily comprehend.
- Choose sensitive language and remember that you are talking about the youth's life and family.
- Allow for more than one session if necessary. The youth may not be ready to hear all the information at once.
- Make sure caretakers are aware of the sharing and are ready to support the youth.
- Check in with the youth a few days after sharing the profile. They may have additional questions or need more time to process the information with someone.