

Extended Jurisdiction: Facts vs. Fiction



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Pre Test

- What do you think "Extended Jurisdiction" means?
- What 6 elements are reviewed in Extended Jurisdiction hearings?
- Who can file for Extended Jurisdiction?
- How can Extended Jurisdiction be terminated?
- Name two (2) responsibilities a CASA or AGAL has to his/her youth.



Extended Jurisdiction's Purpose

- The purpose of extended jurisdiction is to provide a legal mechanism for Family Court review of Independent Living services offered to the youth to assist with their successful transition into adulthood.



Benefits of Extended Jurisdiction?

- Extended Jurisdiction allows a youth to maintain contact with and receive support from his/her judge and CASA/AGAL until he/she reaches the age of 21 years, unless ended sooner.
- Review Hearings are held at least annually, or more frequently if needed.

Common Misunderstanding

- Does a youth need to have Extended Jurisdiction in order to receive Independent Living Services?
 - **NO!**
 - Any youth who has been in DSCYF Custody and placement on his/her 18th birthday and is otherwise eligible* regardless of their enrollment in Extended Jurisdiction *can* receive Independent Living Services.
- A youth **does not need** to have a Board Extension in order to receive services.

*Eligibility includes youth who were adopted or had guardianship occur after age 16.

Simply Put...

Extended Jurisdiction
 =
 Court & CASA/AGAL
 +
 Youth receiving IL Services



Six Elements of Review for Extended Jurisdiction:



- Financial Stability
- Housing
- Medical benefits, including access to health care and other public benefits
- Employment and training
- Education
- Community and individual connections to help support the youth

Independent Living Services

- Assist youth, ages 14 and older, who are in foster care, and youth who have exited care after their 18th birthday but have not reached age 21.
- Services are designed to promote self-sufficiency and responsible living for young adults.
- Participants receive training in Life Skills and Personal Development, mentoring, tuition assistance, and support with transitional living.
- Providers are Elizabeth W. Murphey School (Kent County), People's Place (New Castle and Sussex Counties), and West End Neighborhood House (New Castle County).

Achieving Self Sufficiency & Independence Through Supported Transition (ASSIST) Program

- Needs Based Maintenance Stipends.
- Over 140 youth participating.
- Youth complete a needs assessment and financial literacy course.
- Youth required to work, go to school, or volunteer for a specific number of hours to qualify.
- Youth required to account for stipend use.
- DSCYF will provide funding to youth directly and/or funding to other public or private agencies that provide services to the youth.

Responsibilities



* Based on recommendations from the Extended Jurisdiction Workgroup consisting of representatives from DFS & DAG, IL Providers, CASA, OCA, Judges, CIR, DYOL, and Youth.

CASA/AGAL Responsibilities

- Lead discussion on extended jurisdiction.
- File for Extended Jurisdiction with youth's consent at least thirty days, if possible, prior to final court review hearing.
- File to terminate Extended Jurisdiction when deemed appropriate.
- Ensure receipt of court notices and orders and remind youth of upcoming court hearings as such hearings approach.
- Review court order with youth upon receipt and answer any questions.
- Support youth through the process.

CASA/AGAL Responsibilities

- Represent client's wishes (EJ Cases only).
- Maintain at least monthly meaningful contact with youth.
- Maintain regular contact with IL Providers. Any documentation must be requested well in advance of upcoming hearings.
- Identify any gaps in services and assist in acquiring such services.
- Attend all Family Court hearings and ensure the youth is present if at all possible and has the chance to meaningfully participate in the court proceedings. Make sure transportation has been arranged for the youth prior to the hearing.
- Provide all parties with youth's current contact information.



Family Court Judge's Responsibilities

- Only grant extended jurisdiction if determined that it is youth's desire and attain youth's consent.
- Terminate parent attorney appointments and any appointed Frazer attorney appointments.
- Clarify parental involvement and notification, both of which are at the youth's discretion.
- Prior to scheduling next hearing, discuss with youth their desire to come back for following hearing (arrange schedule together in court) and print notice to be directly given to youth at the conclusion of hearing, if possible.
- Court hearings must be held at least annually, preferably more frequently if appropriate.

Family Court Judge's Responsibilities



- Judge should directly ask youth to express their desire to have and to continue extended jurisdiction.
- At each hearing, review six elements of extended jurisdiction.
- Ensure that all necessary paperwork is complete, including Youth Consent.
- Pose questions directly to youth to engage their input and involve them in court processes.
- Identify any gaps in services and assist in acquiring such services. If all services are active and adequate, hold discussion on the necessity of extended jurisdiction with all parties present.

Independent Living Provider's Responsibilities

- Provide current service plan to youth, AGAL/CASA, and Family Court at the initiation of extended jurisdiction with the consent of the youth.
- IL providers will attain a signed release from the youth.
- Follow service plan and ensure that all available services are offered to youth.
- Maintain contact with youth and remind youth of upcoming hearings.
- Review Extended Jurisdiction Report with youth, when available, at least two weeks prior to hearing (when possible). Report must be agreed upon with IL Provider and Youth prior to being shared with DAG as it pertains to what elements will be disclosed and discussed. Elements will include: Financial stability, housing, medical benefits, employment and training, education, and community and individual connections.

Independent Living Provider's Responsibilities

- Notify DFS if youth no longer wishes to have extended jurisdiction.
- Identify any gaps in services and make adjustments to plan accordingly.
- Provide parties with youth's current contact information.



Division of Family Services Responsibilities

- Provide oversight and support to Independent Living Providers.
- Inform the DAG the need to terminate Extended Jurisdiction when deemed appropriate.
- Report deadlines to IL Providers.
- Maintain extended jurisdiction database.
- Supply IL update to DAG.

DAG for DFS Responsibilities

- Represent DFS/IL Provider in court proceedings.
- File to grant and to terminate extended jurisdiction.
- Communicate regularly with DFS.
- Respond to inquiries from AGAL/CASA and other parties.
- Provide parties and court with youth's current contact information.

Youth's Responsibilities



- Attend court hearings.
- Sign consent to extended jurisdiction.
- If and when requested by IL provider, sign release of information and designate what information can be shared and with whom it can be shared.
- Advise court of whom they would like present at their extended jurisdiction hearings.
- Maintain communication with AGAL/CASA.

Youth's Responsibilities

- Maintain contact with Independent Living Providers.
- Inform AGAL/CASA and/or IL Provider of ability to attend court. If unable to attend in person, provide notice of need to attend by phone and provide the best contact phone number for the court to call.
- Keep AGAL/CASA, IL provider, and Family Court informed of current contact information
- File to terminate Extended Jurisdiction when deemed appropriate.
- Self-Advocacy: speak up for wishes.

Who Can File Petition?

- Youth.
- CASA/AGAL or DFS via DAG on behalf of Youth.
 - Ensure youth's desire to enter into Extended Jurisdiction.
 - Make this a selfless act.

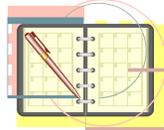


Determining Youth's Desire for Extended Jurisdiction

- Meet with youth prior to filing to explain Extended Jurisdiction.
 - Discussion at STEPS meeting, near 17th birthday.
- Provide literature/pamphlet.
- Answer questions and explain what Extended Jurisdiction is to the youth and how it can benefit them.

When to File

- Preferably filed at least thirty days prior to final review hearing.
- However, filing can take place as late as six months prior to the youth's 21st birthday.



Court Order & Youth

- Ensure that youth receive notices and court orders.
- Ensure that youth becomes a listed party within the Family Court information system.



When to Terminate?



- The youth no longer consents to the Court's Extended Jurisdiction;
- The youth no longer consents to the continued assistance of DSCYF;
- The youth has failed to cooperate with DSCYF; or
- For other good cause shown.
- **NOTE:** EJ will automatically terminate upon youth's 21st birthday.

Post Test

- What do you think "Extended Jurisdiction" means?
- What 6 elements are reviewed in Extended Jurisdiction hearings?
- Who can file for Extended Jurisdiction?
- Why can Extended Jurisdiction be terminated?
- Name two (2) responsibilities a CASA or AGAL has to his/her youth.

Case Review

- Let's look at Shauna and decide if Extended Jurisdiction is appropriate.
- If it is, who should file?
- Once EJ is granted, who needs to go to court?
- What should be covered during the court hearing?
- When should EJ be terminated?

Questions?