

## <sup>i</sup>**Court Appearances for EFCS Young Adults**

1. Young adults who signed a voluntary placement agreement:
  - a. Must have a finding that the voluntary placement of the young adult is in their best interest within 60 days of the final signature on the voluntary placement agreement, absent a local court rule providing an earlier time frame. The court must review the initial transition/permanency plan as well.
  - b. Requires at a minimum 6 month reviews, by court or FCRB from the date of Extension of Foster Care entry, which is the date of the final signature on the VPA. **The initial review must be conducted within 90 days of entry of the young adult into the Extension of Foster Care program, with 6 month reviews occurring thereafter.** The Court determines whether the case will go before FCRB or if the court will conduct a “judicial review” in lieu of FCRB. If the court conducted the “judicial review” the court must review the transition/permanency plan, the appropriateness of services for the young person and determine the progress made toward achieving the goal(s) on the transition/permanency plan, and the parties compliance with the statement of responsibilities on the transition plan.
  - c. Require an annual permanency hearing/reasonable efforts finding. (Reasonable efforts made to prepare the young adult for independence will suffice) The permanency hearing for these youth will be conducted within 12 months of the date of the final signature on the VPA.

2. Young adults who made a direct, IV-E eligible transition into the EFC program, or maintained IV-E eligibility returning from a break of less than 6 months from custody release:
  - a. The court must review the initial transition/permanency plan within 60 days of the EFCS Begin Date.
  - b. Require 6 month reviews at a minimum, by court or FCRB, from the date of entry into DCS custody. **The initial review must be conducted within 90 days of entry of the young adult into the Extension of Foster Care program, with 6 month reviews occurring thereafter.**
  - c. Require an annual permanency hearing/reasonable efforts finding. (Reasonable efforts made to prepare the young adult for independence will suffice). The permanency hearing must be conducted following the schedule established while the young adult was in DCS custody.  
For example: (1) Sally turned 18 years old on January 1, 2014 and exited custody by virtue of law on that date. She signed the necessary rights and responsibilities form and continued in her current placement receiving EFC services. On October 1, 2013, she had a permanency hearing. Sally's next permanency hearing shall be conducted on or before October 1, 2014.  
(2) Sally turned 18 on January 1, 2014. Her last permanency hearing as a minor was held on July 1, 2013. Sally's next permanency hearing will be due on or before July 1, 2014.