

## DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

### Department of Children and Family Services Division of Child Welfare

Extended Foster Care Services (LAC 67:V.3903)

The Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) has exercised the emergency provision of the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:953 (B) to amend LAC 67:V, Subpart 5, Foster Care, Chapter 39, Chafee Foster Care Independence Program and Extended Foster Care, Section 3903. This declaration is necessary to extend the original Emergency Rule since it is effective for a maximum of 120 days and will expire before the Final Rule takes effect. This Emergency Rule extension is effective on January 14, 2021, and shall remain in effect for a period of 120 days or until adoption of a Final Rule, whichever occurs first.

The department considers emergency action necessary to facilitate the expenditure of IV-E funds for extended foster care services to the estimated 220 children who are currently eligible for these foster care services as specified in Act 400 of the 2019 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature. Without emergency action, the Department will not be able to draw down IV-E funds for this population of young adults and will not be in compliance with Act 400 of the Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature. Young adults who are eligible for Extended Foster Care services will not be able to receive such support during their transition to adulthood.

#### **Title 67**

#### **SOCIAL SERVICES**

#### **Part V. Child Welfare**

#### **Subpart 5. Foster Care**

#### **Chapter 39. Chafee Foster Care Independence Program and Extended Foster Care**

#### **§3903. Extended Foster Care Services**

A. The DCFS will continue to provide foster care services to young adults age 18 to 21 who are completing secondary education or a program leading to an equivalent credential, enrolled in institution that provides postsecondary or vocational education, participating in a program or activity designed to promote employment or remove barriers to employment, employed at least eighty hours per month, or is incapable of doing any part of the activities in the aforementioned due to a medical condition in accordance with R.S. 46:288.1, et seq. They shall be eligible for foster care services until their twenty-first birthday as long as the youth is willing and continues to meet the above stated eligibility criteria. The youth initiates extended foster care services through signing a voluntary placement agreement. The young adult in foster care shall be eligible for all foster care services in accordance with their voluntary placement agreement and case plan; and, their foster parents, custodian or other placement provider continued services and benefits for the period of time the young adult is eligible and participating in the extended foster care program.

B. The DCFS will notify all foster children and their foster parents/custodians/placement provider in writing of the availability of extended foster care services; eligibility for the services; and, the benefits at the foster child's seventeenth birthday. The written notifications will continue every 90 days unless the foster child and foster parents/custodian/placement provider consent to participate

in extended foster care, or the child becomes ineligible for participation in the program.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with Act 400 of the 2019 Regular Session and R.S. 46:288.1, et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Children and Family Services, Child Welfare, LR 45:508 (April 2019), effective May 1, 2019, amended LR 47:

Marketa Garner Walters  
Secretary

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