

Important Information for Youth Transitioning out of Foster Care



**State of Michigan
Department of Human Services**

If found, please return to:

Youth Name: _____

Contact Information:

phone: _____

e-mail: _____

address: _____

street

city

state

zip code

Important Information for Youth Transitioning out of Foster Care

Your foster care case is closing, and you might be feeling happy or a little scared. Leaving foster care is probably something you have been waiting to do for a long time. No matter how happy you are, it is useful to know where to turn if you need help. This booklet is a guide to make sure that you know what services are available and where to go for assistance. Never hesitate to call your former caseworker, a friend or someone else if you have questions, concerns or need help.

Critical Case Information

Before your foster case is closed, make sure to get critical information that may be needed in the future. The information below will be useful if you have questions about how to access services and funding, contacting brothers or sisters or getting information about your foster care case. Make sure you have:

1. Your foster care caseworker's name, address, phone number, and email.
2. Your current foster care caseworker's supervisor's name, address, phone number, and email.
3. Your recipient ID (Medicaid) number.
4. Keep this information in a safe place just in case you need help or have a question.

Documents

The following documents are necessary for all successful adults to have in their possession. Make sure the documents are kept in a safe and private location in order to protect you from identity theft. Do not keep your birth certificate or social security card in your wallet; keep them in a safe and secure place at home.

The four most important pieces of documentation are birth certificate, photo ID, social security card and green card (if you are not a US citizen). **These documents should be given to you by your caseworker, or your caseworker should help you get them.** If the documents were not given to you by your worker, you should get them in the following order.

1. Birth certificate.
2. Photo ID (driver's license or state ID).
3. Green card (only if you are not a US citizen).
4. Social security card.

Do not lose these documents. You risk having your identity stolen, and it costs money to replace them. Why spend extra money you could use on something else?

Birth Certificate

1. Your caseworker is responsible for providing you with your original certified birth certificate. Remember to ask them for it! If you aren't able to get your birth certificate from your caseworker, you need to contact the caseworker's supervisor. Having your original certified birth certificate will assist you in obtaining other important documents like a social security card.



2. If you need another copy of your original birth certificate later, there are several ways to get it.

If you were born in Michigan and need to request an original birth certificate:

- a. You can order a new one online at www.michigan.gov/mdch for \$44.50. **You can only order a new birth certificate online if you have a credit card in your name.**

- b. You can send a letter requesting your birth certificate with a check or money order for \$26 payable to the State of Michigan to:

Vital Records
P.O. Box 30721
Lansing, MI 48909

- c. You can apply in person at the Vital Records Office at 201 Townsend Street, 3rd Floor, Lansing, MI. The office hours are 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. You must submit your request by 3 p.m. in order to receive your birth certificate on the same day you apply.

You must have a photo ID to request a birth certificate by mail or in person. The photo ID can include:

At least one of the following	OR	At least one of the following with support documents
Driver's License		Employment ID with photo and a pay stub or W-2 form.
State ID Card		School ID with photo and a report card or proof of enrollment.
Passport		
U.S. Military ID		

Vital Records can also be reached by phone at: 517-335-8666. You can find more information at: www.michigan.gov/mdch.

- 3. If you just need a copy of your birth certificate (not certified) you should contact the County Clerk in the county that you were born.
- 4. If you were born outside of the state of Michigan you can get information about how to receive your birth certificate from: www.vitalchek.com.

Picture ID

If you don't have a driver's license, you definitely need a state ID. There is no need to have both, but you need to have at least one. All adults carry at least one form of official picture identification for business and safety purposes. For example, you will need a picture ID to get a copy of your birth certificate or your social security card.

You must apply for a driver's license or state ID at the Secretary of State. Find your local Secretary of State, bring the documentation below and they will process your request.

1. Valid social security number, such as:
 - a. Social security card.
 - b. Pay stub with your name and social security number.
 - c. Valid U.S. military ID card with photo.
2. Proof of citizenship or legal presence in the U.S., such as:
 - a. Original birth certificate.
 - b. Valid U.S. passport.
 - c. Green card.
3. Proof of identity such as:
 - a. Out-of-state driver license or state ID card.
 - b. Marriage license.
 - c. U.S. court order for name change.
 - d. Photo ID card issued by a federal or state government agency.
 - e. Valid U.S. military ID.
 - f. Michigan drivers education certificate.
 - g. Michigan adoption record.

- h. U.S. school records such as ID card, diploma or transcripts.
4. Proof of residency such as:
- a. Utility bill or credit card bill issued within the last 90 days.
 - b. Bank account statement.
 - c. Michigan high school, college, or university report cards or transcripts that are less than two years old.
 - d. Lease or rental agreement.
 - e. Pay stub with your employer's names and address.

If you have any questions call the Department of State Information Center at 888-767-6424.

Green Card

A green card is also called a permanent resident card. If you were not born in the U.S. and are not a citizen, you need a green card in order to live and work permanently in the United States. Once you have a green card you may apply for U.S. citizenship. You should ask your caseworker for your green card before your case closes. If you do not already have a green card, ask your caseworker to help you to apply and receive your green card.

The green card costs \$49.95 and your caseworker may be able to assist with the cost.



The application for a green card can be found at:

<https://www.usimmigrationsupport.org/greencard.html>

Social Security Card

Your caseworker is responsible for providing or helping you receive, your original social security card. Make sure you get it because you will need to have an original. Social security cards do not cost anything. If you do not get it from your worker you will need to apply for one. The procedure to apply for your social security card is below:

1. Get an application for a social security card from: <http://www.ssa.gov/online/ss-5.html>
2. Complete the application. Print clearly and fill out every section.
3. Bring the completed application to your local social security office.
4. Bring your green card if you are not a US citizen.
5. Bring at least two documents. One must confirm your age and one must confirm your identity and citizenship.

Age	Identity/Citizenship
Original birth certificate	Valid driver's license
U.S. hospital record of your birth (created at the time of birth)	Valid state ID
Final adoption decree (must indicate that birth data was taken from original birth certificate)	Valid U.S. passport
Valid U.S. passport	Current green card

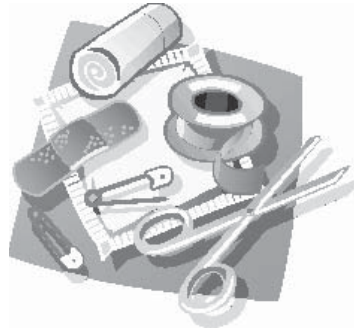
If you have any other questions call the Social Security Administration at 800-772-1213 or go to their website at <http://www.ssa.gov/>.

A Bit of Advice: Social security offices can be very busy. You may have to wait in line. They are also very strict with their procedures in order to protect your identity and have the utmost security. Make sure that you have all of your documentation before you go.

This way you will not waste your time in line and then get turned away for not having everything you need.

Medical Passport – DHS 221

Even if you are perfectly healthy it is important to have your medical history. Certain medical information is needed to attend school or get a job. When your case closes your caseworker must complete a form called the DHS-221, Medical Passport. The medical passport will include your medical information and your biological mother and father's information.



Make sure to get a copy of the medical passport from your worker and keep it in a safe place.

Voter Registration

Voting is critical! Voting is your way of sharing your voice and impacting your community. If you are 18 you should register to vote. You can register at any Secretary of State or Department of Human Services office. Information on how to register can be found at www.michigan.gov/sos.

Services

There are services and funding that you may be eligible for if you were in foster care. These resources can help you become independent, connect you with your community or provide money for you to gain skills.

Foster Care Transitional Medicaid (FCTMA)

If you were in foster care at the age of 18, you may be eligible for medical coverage through FCTMA until the day you turn 21. If you are 18 or older when your case closes, and you are not returning home, give a friendly reminder to your caseworker to sign you

up to receive FCTMA. They can begin the process by completing a form called DHS-57. You can also call the FCTMA Message Phone at 517-241-3627 or the Youth Services phone at 517-241-9865.

Youth In Transition Funding (YIT)

Youth In Transition funding provides services and resources to youth transitioning out of foster care. These funds are meant to help you become a successful adult. YIT funds can be used for things like education, employment, or health. The funds are only available if there is no other way to pay for the services. Also, each county may have different amounts and rules for using YIT funds. You can get more information about YIT by going to www.michigan.gov/fyit.

Education and Training Voucher Program (ETV)

The Education and Training Voucher is a funding source for youth who have been in foster care. ETVs can help pay for vocational school, community college or a four year university. You must be enrolled in the ETV program before you turn 21! If you are enrolled before 21 you can receive funding until you are 23. You must have your high school diploma or GED and be registered at an accredited school before applying. To receive an application you can contact one of the following:



1. On-line at www.mietv.lssm.org.
2. Lutheran Social Services 1-877-660-METV.
3. Local county Department of Human Services (DHS) office.

Michigan Works!

Michigan Works! is an employment agency. The agency can help you obtain training, interviewing skills and job placement. Your

caseworker may have referred you for services while you were in foster care. You can also go to the office and ask for assistance. Make sure you talk to your worker about Michigan Works! because it will put you on the right track for getting a job. For more information, go to www.michiganworks.org.



Michigan Youth Opportunities Initiative (MYOI)

The MYOI is a program that focuses on financial literacy and youth development. The program provides training on money management, and skills that will help you become a successful adult. Local youth boards serve as a support network and are a way to share your voice and thoughts on

making the child welfare system better. Right now MYOI is in 34 counties across the state. For more information ask your worker and go to www.michigan.gov/fyit.

Useful Websites

Below are websites that have more information about supports for youth who have been in foster care. They are not necessarily based in Michigan, but they still provide a lot of great information!

www.michigan.gov/fyit

www.fosterclub.org

www.orphan.org

www.fostercaremonth.org

www.jimcaseyyouth.org

www.caseylifeskills.org

www.nationalfostercare.org

www.mietv.lssm.org

www.eduguide.org

Checklist of Important Documents

Have	Need	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Recipient ID/Medicaid Number
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Birth Certificate
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Social Security Card
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	State ID or Driver's License
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Green Card (if applicable)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Medical Passport – DHS 221
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Medical Records
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dental Records
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Psychological/Psychiatric Records
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Transitional Medicaid /health insurance card
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Educational Records
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Education and Training Voucher Application/ Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Financial Aid Form DHS - 944/945
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tax Documents – W9, 1090, other
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Voter Registration Card

Contact Information

Have Need

 DHS Worker

Name _____

Address _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____

Have Need

 DHS Manager

Name _____

Address _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____

Have Need

 Private Agency Worker

Name _____

Address _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____

Have Need

 Private Agency Manager

Name _____

Address _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____

Have Need

 Lawyer

Name _____

Address _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____

Have Need

 Medical Doctor

Name _____

Address _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____

Have Need

 Dentist

Name _____

Address _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____

Have Need

 Therapist or Psychiatrist

Name _____

Address _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____

Have Need

 Mentor

Name _____

Address _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____

Have Need

 Supportive Adult

Name _____

Address _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____

Have Need

 Sibling

Name _____

Address _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____

Have Need

 Sibling

Name _____

Address _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____

Have Need

 Parent or other Family Member

Name _____

Address _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____

Have Need

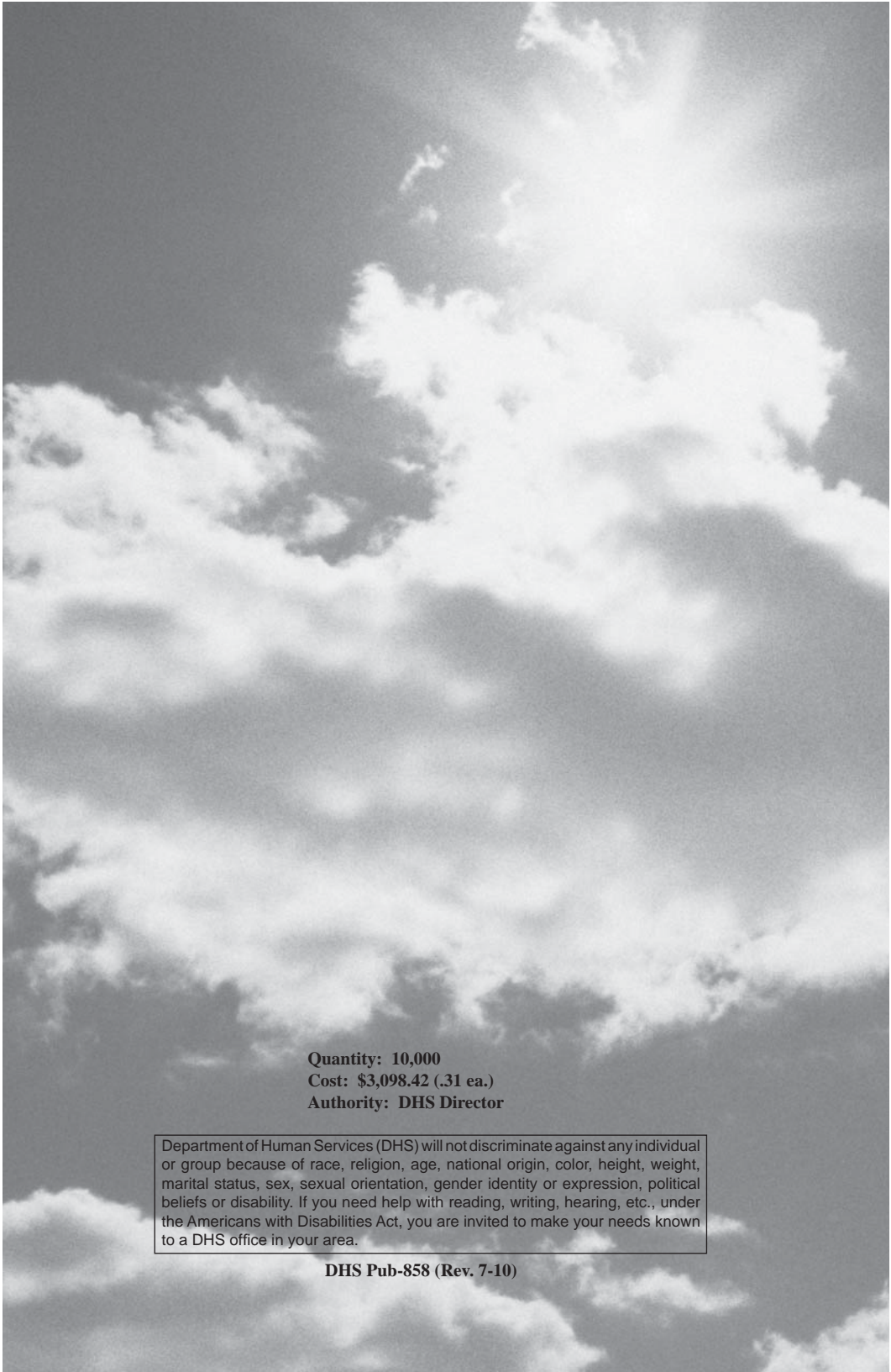
 Parent or other Family Member

Name _____

Address _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____

NOTES



Quantity: 10,000
Cost: \$3,098.42 (.31 ea.)
Authority: DHS Director

Department of Human Services (DHS) will not discriminate against any individual or group because of race, religion, age, national origin, color, height, weight, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, political beliefs or disability. If you need help with reading, writing, hearing, etc., under the Americans with Disabilities Act, you are invited to make your needs known to a DHS office in your area.

DHS Pub-858 (Rev. 7-10)