

## DID YOU KNOW?

You do not have to leave foster care at 18. You can stay until you turn 21 or leave sooner if you change your mind. Discuss it with your attorney and the court for more details.

## BE SURE TO GET THESE THINGS BEFORE LEAVING CARE:

- Original birth certificate
- Original Social Security Card
- State ID or driver's license
- Immunization Records
- Health Passport Records
- Medicaid Card
- Educational and Training Voucher (ETV)
- Most recent credit report
- Bank account information
- Transition Portfolio

\*Be sure to keep your documents safe.

**YOU CAN REQUEST YOUR CPS RECORD BY CALLING 877-764-7230**

**DON'T HESITATE TO CALL BIG COUNTRY CASA IF YOU NEED HELP @ (325) 677-6448**



**BIG COUNTRY CASA**  
Court Appointed Special Advocates For Children

**400 Oak Street | Abilene, Texas 79602**

**Office (325) 677-6448 | Fax (325) 704-5176**

**[www.bigcountrycasa.org](http://www.bigcountrycasa.org)**

## IMPORTANT NUMBERS FOR HELP

ORGANIZATION	NUMBER
Region 2 PAL worker	(325) 721-9733
Foster Care Ombudsman	(844) 286-0769
211 for all areas of help	211
Texas Youth Helpline	(800) 989-6884
Big Country CASA	(325) 677-6448

Remember you do not have to be alone on this journey. We are here to help you connect with resources to help you be successful. Our CASA office is located at **400 Oak St. Suite 217**. If we do not know the answer, we can help you find the answer.

## EDUCATION

- Foster Care Student Liaison—contact the school in which you are planning to attend to use your ETV
- To get your GED, call **(325) 671-4419 (AISD)** or **(325) 795-4200 (Texas Workforce)**
- Job Corps **(325) 268-4203**
- Education Training Voucher (ETV) **(877) 268-4063** - enroll before 25
- Scholarships—ask at the Financial Aid Department at the college you are attending
- FAFSA— [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov)
- Use public libraries for internet access  
202 Cedar St., **(325) 677-2474**  
4310 Buffalo Gap Rd., **(325) 698-7565**  
1326 N. Mockingbird Ln., **(325) 437-7323**
- Triumph Public High School **(325) 437-0448**



**CASA**

Court Appointed Special Advocates  
FOR CHILDREN

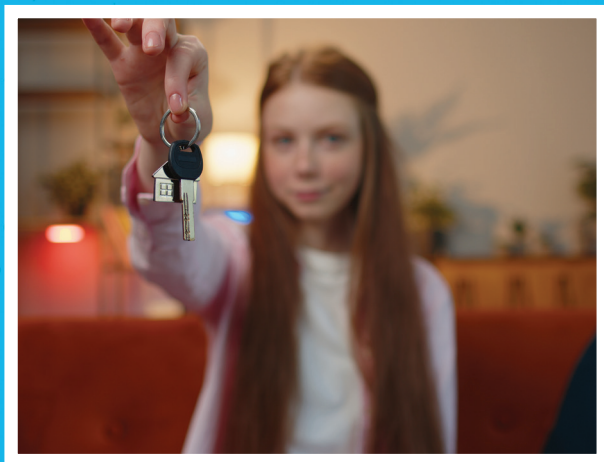
BIG COUNTRY CASA

## YOUTH GUIDE



Scan the QR code  
to access Foster  
Youth Resources on  
[BigCountryCASA.org](http://BigCountryCASA.org)!





## EMPLOYMENT

- Texas Workforce Solutions—Youth aging out of care are given preference over others with similar qualifications. **(325) 795-4200** or [www.workintexas.com](http://www.workintexas.com)
- FaithWorks **(325) 437-2272**
- Christian Women's and Men's Job Corp. **(325) 7801-9250**
- Goodwill **(325) 676-7925**
- Military Recruitment— 4365 South 1st St.  
Army **(325) 271-3466**  
Navy **(325) 650-4904**  
Air Force **(325) 603-7688**  
Marines **(325) 320-4750**
- Contact TSTC for assistance for training and programs for former foster children **(800) 792-8784**

## TRANSPORTATION

- City Link **(325) 676-6402**
- Medicaid Transportation **(877) 633-8747**
- City and Rural Rides (CARR) **(800) 710-2277**
- Christian Service Center **(325) 673-7531** (bus passes)
- City Light Community Ministries **(325) 676-6287** (bus passes)

## HEALTH

- Health Passport (medical records) before you leave care or ask your 2INgage worker
- FFCC through age 25—Medicaid
- Foster Youth Medicaid (ages 18-20)
- STAR Health Plan (between age 21-25)
- Call **211** to apply for all of these or visit [www.yourtexasbenefits.com](http://www.yourtexasbenefits.com)
- If you are not an USA citizen but have a green card you can receive coverage until you are 21 if your parents have completed certain work requirements
- Dental coverage through Medicaid up to age 20
- If you have children, apply for CHIP insurance and financial assistance by calling **211**

## FINANCIAL

- SB 1379 pilot program to increase financial independence of foster youth
- Request a credit report to see if your SS number has been used. Ask your case manager to help
- Transitional Living Allowance of up to \$1,000 to help start up your own household. You must complete PAL Life Skills to get this money.
- Room and Board Assistance of up to \$3,000. Contact your 2INgage after care worker or BCFS case manager.

## PUBLIC ASSISTANCE & FOOD PANTRIES

- WIC **(325) 692-1680**
- SNAP/Food Stamps **(877) 541-7905**
- Food Bank of Abilene **(325) 695-6311**
- Love & Care Ministry **(325) 670-0246**
- United Methodist Church Food Pantry **(325) 864-6605**
- Breakfast on Beech (BOBS) (weekdays) 1420 N. 3rd St. **(325) 338-8575** They provide a sack lunch to go. Just walk in to receive.
- Call **211** or visit [www.acallforhlep.org](http://www.acallforhlep.org) for all locations and times

## LEGAL CONCERNS

- Legal Aid of Northwest Texas **(325) 677-8591** 500 Chestnut Street

## STAYING SAFE

- 911
- Human Trafficking **888-373-7888**
- Beyond Trafficking **(325) 864-5418**
- The Noah Project **(325) 676-7107**
- Suicide Hotline **800-273-TALK (8255)**
- Texas Youth Helpline **800-989-6884**

## HOUSING

- Supervised Independent Living (SIL) including apartments, dorms, shared housing or host homes. Contact your PCM.
- Extended Foster Care until 21. Discuss with your case manager, PAL or BCFS
- HUD Vouchers - contact your PCM or call **(325) 676-6385 ext. 6325**
- Transition Centers can help with housing, jobs, and counseling, ask your PCM or call **(325) 692-0033**
- Harmony House 24 hour emergencies **(325) 672-7200**
- Furniture Help—West Texas Homeless Network **(325) 260-1417**
- Hendrick Home After Care Program **(325) 692-0112**
- **211** for help with utilities
- Our House **(325) 692-0033**
- Salvation Army **(325) 677-1408**

## UTILITY ASSISTANCE

- **211** for help with utilities
- Buffalo Gap Church of Christ **(325) 572-3333**
- City Light Community Ministries **(325) 676-6686**