

	DIVISION OF FAMILY AND CHILDREN SERVICES CHILD WELFARE POLICY MANUAL		
	Chapter:	Independent Living Program (ILP)	Effective Date:
	Policy Title:	Casey Life Skills Assessment	
	Policy Number:	13.2	Previous Policy #: 1012.2

CODE/REFERENCES

John Chafee Foster Care Independence Program (Foster Care Independence Act of 1999, PL 106-169)

REQUIREMENTS

The Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS) shall utilize the Casey Life Skills Assessment (CLSA) to assess the life skills, strengths and vulnerabilities of youth enrolled in the Independent Living Program (ILP).

DFCS shall administer the CLSA to youth, enrolled in ILP within 60 days of:

1. The youth's initial eligibility,
2. At age 15, and
3. At age 17, unless at CLSA had been completed within the last 12 months.

DFCS shall utilize the results of the CLSA to assist in the development of goals and steps for the youth's Written Transitional Living Plan (see policy 13.3 Written Transitional Living Planning (WTLP)).

PROCEDURES

To complete the CLSA, the Social Service Case Manager (SSCM) will:

1. Conduct a face-to-face meeting with the youth and his or her caregiver to discuss the assessment process;
2. Access the website www.caseylifeskills.org/index.htm and review the assessment with the youth and caregiver;
3. Have the youth complete the assessment online at www.caseylifeskills.org/index.htm or on a hard copy (paper) version;
NOTE: The SSCM should assess the youth's ability to complete the CLSA with minimal guidance. If the youth can complete this task independently, provide the youth's caregiver with information to ensure the youth's completion of the task.
4. Review the assessment results and determine with the youth, the appropriate steps, goals, and services needed to be included in the WTLP;
5. Go to the Youth Detail Report page in SHINES and select "yes" for the completion of the CLSA;
6. Ensure that all ongoing CLSA are completed at the identified timeframes (age 15 and 17) or based on the specific needs of the youth.

PRACTICE GUIDANCE

Casey Life Skills Assessment

The Casey Life Skills Assessment (CLSA) tool was developed by the Casey Family Programs (Casey) from 1994-2000 as a tool for child welfare to assess life skills of youth. The CLSA is not an exhaustive list of all the skills one needs to live on one's own, rather, it provides an indication of skill level and readiness for living on one's own. The assessments are designed as the first step in preparing youth to live independently. Other steps include goal setting, action planning, instruction, learning, and application, followed again by assessment to measure progress.

The life skills assessments provide instant feedback with customized learning plans; these plans provide a clear outline of next steps¹.

The Casey Life Skills Assessment must be administered upon the youth's entry in foster care and at ages 15 and 17, the assessment will be used as a basis for the goals of the Written Transitional Living Plan (WTLP). The CLSA may be used more frequently as the WTLP is updated or based on the individual needs of the youth. Additionally, the assessment can be used to as a post assessment for when a youth has demonstrated mastery of a skill.

The Casey Life Skills Assessment may be accessed online at www.caseylifeskills.org or by enrolling youth into a regional Independent Living Orientation where the assessment will be administered by the Independent Living Specialist. To administer or complete the assessment, follow directions on the website.

For detailed information on how to complete the CLSA visit www.georgiailp.org or www.caseylifeskills.org.

FORMS AND TOOLS

List of Independent Living Coordination by Region, www.georgiailp.org
For instructions on completing the CLSA visit, www.georgiailp.org