



State of Tennessee
Department of Children's Services

Administrative Policies and Procedures: 31.6

Subject:	Selective Service/Voter Registration for Youth in DCS Custody or Young Adults Receiving Extension of Foster Care Services
Authority:	U.S. Code § 3328 - Selective Service registration; TCA 2-2-102, 2-2-109, 2-2-115
Standards:	None
Application:	To All Department of Children’s Services Employees
Policy Statement:	
Male youths in DCS custody approaching or who have attained age 18 register for the Selective Service. Male and female youths are afforded the opportunity to register to vote in state and federal elections upon turning age 18.	
Purpose:	
To provide guidelines for regional Department of Children’s Services (DCS) staff to ensure male youths who are required to register for Selective Service do so by federal deadlines. Male and female youths who are 18 are allowed to register to vote.	
Procedures:	
A. Selective Service registration (males only)	Regional DCS staff assists youth in registering for the selective service. 1. It is the law that youth who are within 30 days of their 18 th birthday (before or after) register. 2. Youth can register online at www.sss.gov . 3. Youth should use their permanent, or home address to register. They should not use the address of their DCS placement unless it is where they will live after they are released from DCS custody. 4. Youth have to provide their social security number.
B. Failing to Register for Selective Service - penalties (males only)	Youth who refuse to register must be informed of the penalties they will incur. Men who fail to register by their 26 th birthday can be permanently barred from receiving: a) Federal student loans b) Placement in federally funded job training programs c) Will not qualify for some federal jobs ♦ See www.sss.gov for further information regarding penalties for failing

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	to register.
C. Voter Registration procedures	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All youth who are approaching or have attained 18 years of age and are residents of Tennessee are informed of their right to vote. 2. Each DCS Family Service Worker (FSW)/Juvenile Service Worker (JSW) educates youth on their caseload who are approaching or have attained 18 years of age regarding the right to vote and assists with voter registration when each youth turns 18, as applicable. 3. If a youth wishes to register to vote, download the Voter Registration Application from the Tennessee Secretary of State's website at: http://sos.tn.gov/node/5996. 4. Once the application is completed, the FSW/JSW sends the application to the County Election Commission in the youth's county of residence. Contact information for County Elections Commissions is located on the Tennessee Secretary of State website at http://sos.tn.gov/elections/voter-information. 5. A youth who is away from their home county during an election may be able to vote with an absentee ballot. Details and instructions are also found on the website mentioned above. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ A youth must be registered no later than thirty (30) days before an election.
D. Documentation	DCS staff who assist youth with Selective Service or Voter Registration document results in TFACTS case recordings, including whether registration was completed or the youth refused to register, as applicable.
E. Other 18 Year Olds receiving services from DCS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. For youths placed in a Youth Development Center (YDC), please see DCS Policy 18.7, Selective Service/Voter Registration for 18 Year Olds in a YDC. 2. For Extension of Foster Care recipients, refer to Independent Living Youth Handbook-Toolkit to Success.
Forms:	Voter Registration Application
Collateral documents:	Independent Living Youth Handbook-Tool Kit to Success
Glossary:	
Term	Definition
	None