



**State of Tennessee**

**Department of Children's Services**

## ***Protocol for Continuation of TennCare Eligibility for Children Exiting Custody***

- At the Child and Family team meeting for exit preparation, the FSW and/or Facilitator will obtain the mailing address of where the child will be living upon leaving custody. They will also inform the family or youth that their TennCare will change from a DCS Medicaid category to another TennCare category (Child Magi or Former Foster Care, whichever applies). However, families and youth should be made aware that when their eligibility status (because they are ending custody) is closed, the TennCare program will be sending them an application to extend TennCare benefits. The families should complete the application and send it to TennCare. Eligibility will be extended to the next "re-determination" period.
- A one page handout is available to provide to families and youth upon exit or at the exit CFTM.
  - Upon exit from DCS custody, the FSW will complete the exiting survey.
  - At this time, a forwarding address is entered into TFACTS.
  - The Maximization Specialist will use a TFACTS generated report that will serve as notification that the child has exited care. The Maximization Specialist will then enter the forwarding address into TEDS. In this way, the TennCare address is the new forwarding address for the child /youth.
  - TennCare will close out the child's custody eligibility based on TFACTS legal status updates. There is a time frame before the TennCare eligibility ends, The transition period could extend up to six (6) months for a youth exiting DCS custody.
  - At the time of eligibility closure, the renewal application is mailed from TennCare. The family/youth must complete this renewal application. By doing so, the TennCare eligibility is extended.
- Individuals not qualifying for TennCare may be able to qualify for CoverKids and information is available at <https://www.tn.gov/coverkids.html>. If families are aware that they may not qualify for TennCare and they are uninsured, they should be referred to CoverKids.

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