

Frequently Asked Questions: Re-Entry Services

Am I eligible for re-entry services if I am married?

Eligibility is considered on a case-by-case basis. If you are married, you've entered into your own agreement as an adult to be in a co-care relationship. The intention of re-entry services is not to support a spouse.

If you live with a spouse, you are not independent. However, there may be circumstances that could potentially make you eligible (ex. You are not living with your spouse, showing instability). Re-entry services could also impact other assistance your family receives as a unit, which may not be in your best interest.

If re-entry services are not the best path for you due to your marital status and circumstances, you may still be eligible to receive **Chafee aftercare services**. These services are not based on marital status.

I am 18 or older, and I have never been in care. Can I be placed in care?

No, you must have been in care prior to your 18th birthday to come into care or qualify for re-entry services.

Am I still eligible for services if I choose to live with a roommate?

Living with a roommate is allowed in an Independent Living Arrangement, but the roommate cannot be a parent (or parental figure). The roommate must also be a contributor to household expenses and not be dependent on you for any needs.

What if I have a child?

Having a child does not make you ineligible to come back into care. If you are the custodial parent and the child lives with you, your eligibility for re-entry services remain the same.

Will I have the same case manager?

Ideally you would return to your previous case manager if you still live in the same circuit, unless there are reasons this would not be in your best interests.

I am homeless and need help immediately. What can I do?

If you are in need of immediate services, we would encourage you to look into **aftercare services** as a petition for re-entry services may take time to be heard in Court. A referral may also be made to **HUD's Foster Youth to Independence Voucher Program** through the Coordinated Entry System to assist with housing.

I was denied re-entry services by the Children's Division. Do I have other options?

Yes. If we do not recommend you return to care, you may file a petition or the Juvenile Officer may file one on your behalf.

Which court can help me file a petition for re-entry?

A petition for re-entry into foster care can be filed:

- In the court that previously exercised jurisdiction
- In the county where you currently reside
- An adjacent county

What if I return to custody under re-entry, am released from care, and would like to come back into care again?

If you were released from re-entry for any of the following reasons, the Children's Division will not file a petition for re-entry services again:

- You were unwilling or unable to develop, implement, or otherwise cooperate with the implementation of the transition plan
- You plead guilty or are found guilty of any felony, or any misdemeanor and are sentenced to a period of incarceration
- You are committed to the legal custody of any sheriff or the Department of Corrections
- Any other circumstance where you fail to cooperate with the Children's Division or the Children's Division does not have services available or the ability to provide services