



NH Department of Health & Human Services  
Division for Children, Youth & Families

## DCYF Standard Operating Procedure

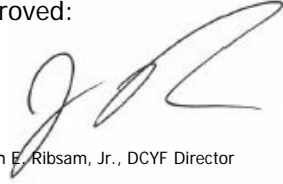
### 1977.3 EXITING THE HOPE PROGRAM

Policy Directive: **20-05**

Approved:

Effective Date: **April 2020**

Implements Policy: **1977**

  
Joseph E. Ribsam, Jr., DCYF Director

This SOP defines procedures and reasons for exiting from the HOPE Program.

#### Procedure

*The following information is to support the implementation of the above referenced policy. This document should not preclude staff from using their professional judgement based on individual circumstances, consistent with the requirements of the policy.*

- I. The CPSW/JPPD should terminate a youth's participation in the HOPE Program as follows:
  - A. Participation in the HOPE Program must be terminated when:
    1. The young adult reaches 21 years of age;
    2. The young adult no longer meets the eligibility criteria including exceeding the time limits for temporary breaks;
    3. The young adult requests termination from the HOPE Program; or
    4. The court has determined the young adult is not meeting the goals of their case plan or has violated the Voluntary Placement Agreement and vacates the order to participate;
  - B. If the young adult no longer maintains participation in an eligibility requirement for the HOPE program, they are allowed a 60-day transition period in which efforts to re-establish participation must be made by the young adult with the assistance of DCYF;
  - C. A transition between eligibility requirements does not automatically disqualify young adults from the program; however, if the 60-day transition period is coming to an end and the young adult has not made reasonable efforts to meet eligibility requirements, the CPSW/JPPD should request the court to terminate the young adult's case and participation in the HOPE Program;
  - D. DCYF should inform the young adult that a motion should be filed with the court to close the case;
    1. The Field Administrator should respond to young adults who disagree with the decision to terminate them from the HOPE Program; and

- 2. The final determination for termination under this section should be by court order;
  - E. DCYF's motion to close the case should explain the reason(s) for termination including a citation to the law and include efforts made by DCYF to assist the youth in maintaining eligibility requirements; and
  - F. If the court grants the motion, the case should close on the date specified in the court order.
- II. 90-Day Youth Transition Meetings should be held for young adults exiting the HOPE Program. The CPSW/JPPPO should:
- A. Conduct a 90-Day Youth Transition Meeting with the young adult and interested parties 90 days prior to the termination of their participation in the HOPE Program;
  - B. Complete a second 90-Day Youth Transition Plan with the young adult that identifies outstanding need area(s) and plan(s) to meet those needs; and
  - C. Inform the young adult of the scope and availability of DCYF Aftercare Services.

**Glossary and Document Specific Definitions**

A - B    C - D    E - F    G - I    J - L    M - N    O - Q    R - S    T - V    W - Z

**For the Purpose of this Document:**

**"HOPE Program"** means extended foster care to young adults who voluntarily consent and meet criteria established by RSA 170-E:53. Extended foster care includes any other traditional services or programs for which a youth may be eligible, including but not limited to the John H. Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood (42 USC section 677).

**"Young Adult"** means an individual who is age 18 to 21.

Document Change Log			
PD	Modification Made	Approved	Date