

SURVIVOR'S GUIDE FOR OLDER YOUTH

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MUCH OF WHAT I KNOW ABOUT
SUCCESSFULLY “AGING OUT” .
. . . I LEARNED FROM FLYING . . .

An aerial photograph of an airport runway and terminal building, surrounded by lush green hills and mountains. The runway is a long, straight strip of asphalt with white markings, leading towards a cluster of buildings. The surrounding landscape is a mix of green fields and dense forests, with mountains in the background under a clear sky.

**GOOD APPROACHES
MAKE GOOD LANDINGS**

The Approach: WHAT IS WELL-BEING TO AN OLDER YOUTH?

1. Intellectual Potential
2. Social Development
3. Mental Wellness
4. Physical Health
5. Safety and Permanency
6. Economic Success



Intellectual Potential

- Is our client exposed to interesting learning environments.... Possible advocacy here!
- Opportunity to participate in things they are interested in?
- Appropriate Critical Thinking and problem solving skills developed?
- How are they at realistic GOAL setting?



SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT



- Well-Being = cultivation of strong self identity, resiliency , supportive and nurturing relationships....
Hopeful about future!
- Strong sense of self esteem.
- Emotionally healthy relationships (may not include her/his parents!)
- Communicate needs well and use healthy coping skills
- Self manage and regulate emotions
- Have spiritual support.

MENTAL WELLNESS



- Well Being = Managing mental health and wellness
- Can client manage mental distress in healthy manner?
- Client fully participates in treatment decisions.
- Has health insurance to cover mental health needs.
- Access to mental health services, including access to non-pharma treatments.
- Linkage to services post 18.

PHYSICAL HEALTH



- Well Being = Maximize physical health, strength and functioning .
- Access to a healthy range of activities.
- Client has info to make informed health decisions and engages in healthy behavior.
- Has health insurance to cover physical needs.
- Access and information to reproductive health.
- .Connection to primary care doctor.

SAFETY & PERMANENCY


- Well Being = Making sure client is physically safe and psychologically safe and free from abuse and neglect.
- **SAFETY-** Does client have tools to cope when she feels unsafe?
- Client knows how to take reasonable precaution to avoid being victimized or abused.
- **PERMANENCY** – belongs to a family for life.
- Has at least one adult to rely on.
- Feels Connected and sense of belonging to a supportive network.




ECONOMIC SUCCESS



- Well Being = achieving educational success, reaching full potential including secondary and post secondary – what we would want for our own children.
- Access to education matches client’s interest and abilities.
- Acquire ed and training that enables them to attain marketable skills- - leading to steady employment.
- To obtain and retain employment
- Have a living wage and a career path
- Obtain safe and affordable housing.



WHY WE DON'T WAIT UNTIL AGE 18 IN EITHER JUVENILE RULES OR ABUSE NEGLECT PROCEDURE

- 
1. No Surprises MDTs, Case Plans, Updates @ Court 49-2B-3(x)
 2. Transitioning Adult – What are your duties to her as attorney? When do those duties start?
 3. Prepping Teen to speak her mind? (see Link #2 handout)

49-2b-3(x)

(x) "Transitioning adult" means an individual with a transfer plan to move to an adult setting who meets one of the following conditions:

(1) Is eighteen years of age but under twenty-one years of age, was in departmental custody upon reaching eighteen years of age and committed an act of delinquency before reaching eighteen years of age, remains under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court, and requires supervision and care to complete an education and or treatment program which was initiated prior to the eighteenth birthday.

(2) Is eighteen years of age but under twenty-one years of age, was adjudicated abused, neglected, or in departmental custody upon reaching eighteen years of age and enters into a contract with the department to continue in an educational, training, or treatment program which was initiated prior to the eighteenth birthday.

Cases Reviews and Perm. Hrgs
APPLY to Transitioning Adults!

GAL DUTIES TO THE OLDER FOSTER CHILD

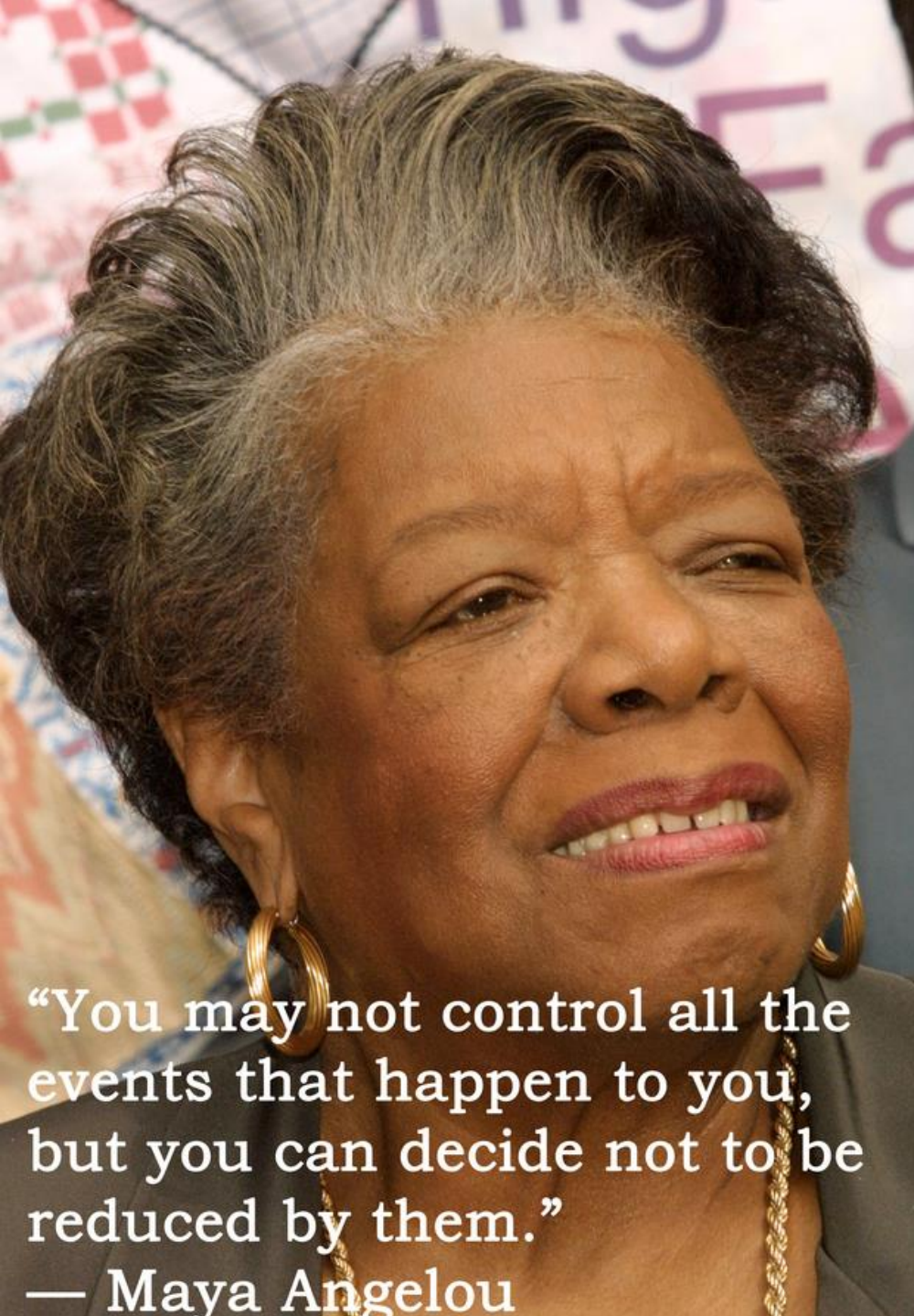
- See Appendix #1 – Amendments to Abuse/Neglect Rules on GAL Duties. All Stages of proceedings.
- Starts upon appointment – your duties may “Morph” as your client ages in the system without permanency being achieved. Does NOT end until permanency. Rule 52(g)
- All duties enumerated apply to the older teen.
- Now written reports at Dispositional Phase. Why wait until then?
- Post-Dispositional Advocacy for the older client: Placement; education, sibling contact, etc.
- BIG for the TEEN – A VOICE IN COURT!



GIVING YOUR CLIENT A VOICE IN COURT...

- See Appendix Link #2 – “Engaging Kids in Court” by the ABA – Empowering Youth Project.
- A Teen present at Court can provide input for major decisions in their life: permanency, custody, well-being needs (like band camp!)
- Judges get info from Teen that they wouldn’t get from Service Providers or Attorneys.
- Limited reasons for client NOT to attend.
- Lack of Transportation should NOT be an excuse.
- If contrary to Best Interest for her to attend all hearing, just attend part of it.
- Alternatives: (1) Chambers, (2) Video Tech, (3) Letters and Hearsay, etc.
- USE age appropriate language with Teen.





“You may not control all the events that happen to you, but you can decide not to be reduced by them.”

— Maya Angelou





TIPS ON TURNING 18 ...



- 1. Rights and Responsibilities in KEY LIFE AREAS**
2. Marriage & Divorce, Driving, Cell Phone Contracts
3. Landlord-Tenant
4. Should I STAY in FOSTER CARE? What if I Do Not???
5. Coming of Age – See Link #3
6. WHAT if I DIE.... Worse yet, WHAT IF I ALMOST DIE?
7. Money – Money – Money . . .

FINANCIAL CHALLENGES OF FOSTER CHILD BECOMING AN ADULT



STOLEN IDENTITY and FOSTER KIDS



- As of Sept 2011, Federal Law - ANY youth in foster care above age 16 shall get annual credit report obtained by the State.
- Foster Care Policy 5.16 reflects that policy in WV
- “My OWN MOTHER DID WHAT TO MY CREDIT?”
- Understand good credit history and good credit. GOOD CREDIT HISTORY – directly relates to getting:
 - **LOANS, RENTING AN APARTMENT**
 - **BUYING A HOUSE, BUYING A CAR**
 - **APPLYING FOR A JOB**

FINANCES and FOSTER KIDS



- Can your client open a savings and checking account? (See BB & T Student Checking form). It's a good reality check on the Skills Assessment progress. Help BUILD GOOD Credit.
- Your Client Getting SSI, Vet Benefits, Need a Rep Payee?
- Know about offsets of benefits in subsidized adoption and guardianships.



DRIVING and INSURANCE FOR YOUNG ADULTS LEAVING CARE



The BIG OAK Kids Used Car Lot Experience
... You Ain't Leaving Until....

THE DISCHARGE PROCESS . . .

1. OLDER YOUTH TRANSITION PLAN – March 18th, 2014 Letter – Immediate Use of Plan
2. See the 2012 (Revised) Youth Transition Policy *** Copy it and keep it in Computer – Refer to it at MDTs and in Orders.
3. What of the PEDDL?



PEDDL- . . . Personal Exchange Document Discharge List:

These will be released to the youth upon his /her exit from the care and custody of the Department. These items may include but are not limited to:

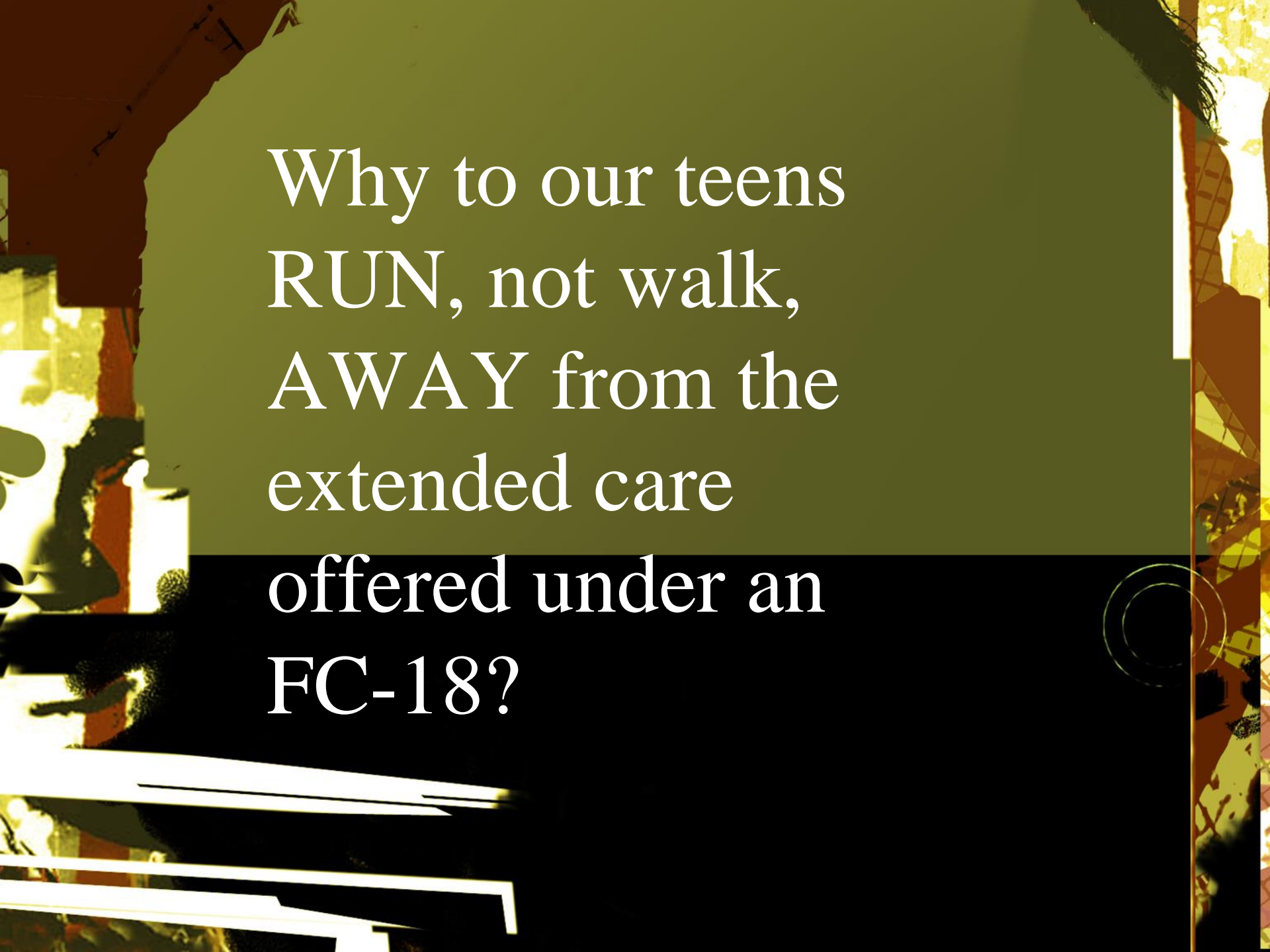
1. the youth's social security card;
2. certified original birth certificate;
3. health records including immunization history;
4. education records;
5. life book;



PEDDL- . . . Personal Exchange Document Discharge List – CONTINUED

6. completed journey placement notebook;
7. state photo ID;
8. SSI application (copy), and;
9. any other information the youth may find helpful or important.





Why to our teens
RUN, not walk,
AWAY from the
extended care
offered under an
FC-18?

FOSTERING CONNECTIONS ACT AND WHAT IT MEANS TO OLDER YOUTH . . .



- SCOPE out the Relatives Early!
- Consider Court ORDER
- Fosterings Connection Bench Card for Judges
- Subsidized Guardianships
- Encouraging Relationships

SEX, LIES and VIDEO CHAT



TOPICS NOT TO SHY AWAY FROM WITH THE OLDER FOSTER CHILD...



- Making sure someone had “THE TALK”
- Birth Control, HIV/AIDS
- Where’d I put my Promise Ring?
- Sexual Identity
- Abusive Dating and Family Relationships



On Abusive Relationships, a great resource in WV
is WWW.WVCADV.org



- Public Awareness – Downloadable Pamphlets for clients
- **ADVOCACY** – links to groups that help Families
- **TRAINING** and **TECH** assistance

Ignore Delete Reply Reply All Forward More Meeting Move to: ? To Manager Done Create New Team Email Reply & Delete Rules OneNote Actions Mark Unread Categorize Follow Up Translate Find Related Select Zoom

Wed 7/9/2014 9:42 AM

The CWLA Networker <cwla@multibriefs.com>

Former foster care youth get help paying for health care

To lawsongs@ntelos.net

KNOW THY FREE RESOURCES as a GAL!!!

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The Networker

a communication of the latest news, resources, events, and more straight to your desktop

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IN THE NEWS

Solving the youth immigrant crisis

Chicago Tribune
The desire of parents to give their children a safer, better life is leading mothers and fathers in the violence-wracked Central American countries of Guatemala,

The CWLA Networker April is Child Abuse Prevention Month



Everything You Need to Know About Lifebooks and Your Child

Lifebooks 101

By [Carrie Craft](#)

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Ads: [Fostering and Adoption](#) [Adopt a Foster Child](#) [Adoption Info](#) [Foster Care Agencies](#) [Newborn Adoption](#)

If you are a foster or adoptive parent and have never heard of lifebooks, then you have been missing out! Lifebooks are a wonderful tool that many foster and adoptive families utilize within their homes. A lifebook contains a foster or adopted child's life story. This special book typically begins at a child's birth and contains information on each placement through that child's foster or adoption journey. Lifebooks help foster and adopted children understand and begin to process their life story.

Below find all of the articles I have created on the subject of lifebooks. These articles contain helpful tips and advice on how to go about creating an effective lifebook for your foster or adopted child.

1. [How to Create a Lifebook for Your Child](#)

Know that a foster child's lifebook will contain some elements that are very different than the items that are included in an adopted child's lifebook. Here are several tips on how to go about starting the process of pulling together items needed to start a lifebook for your foster or adopted child.

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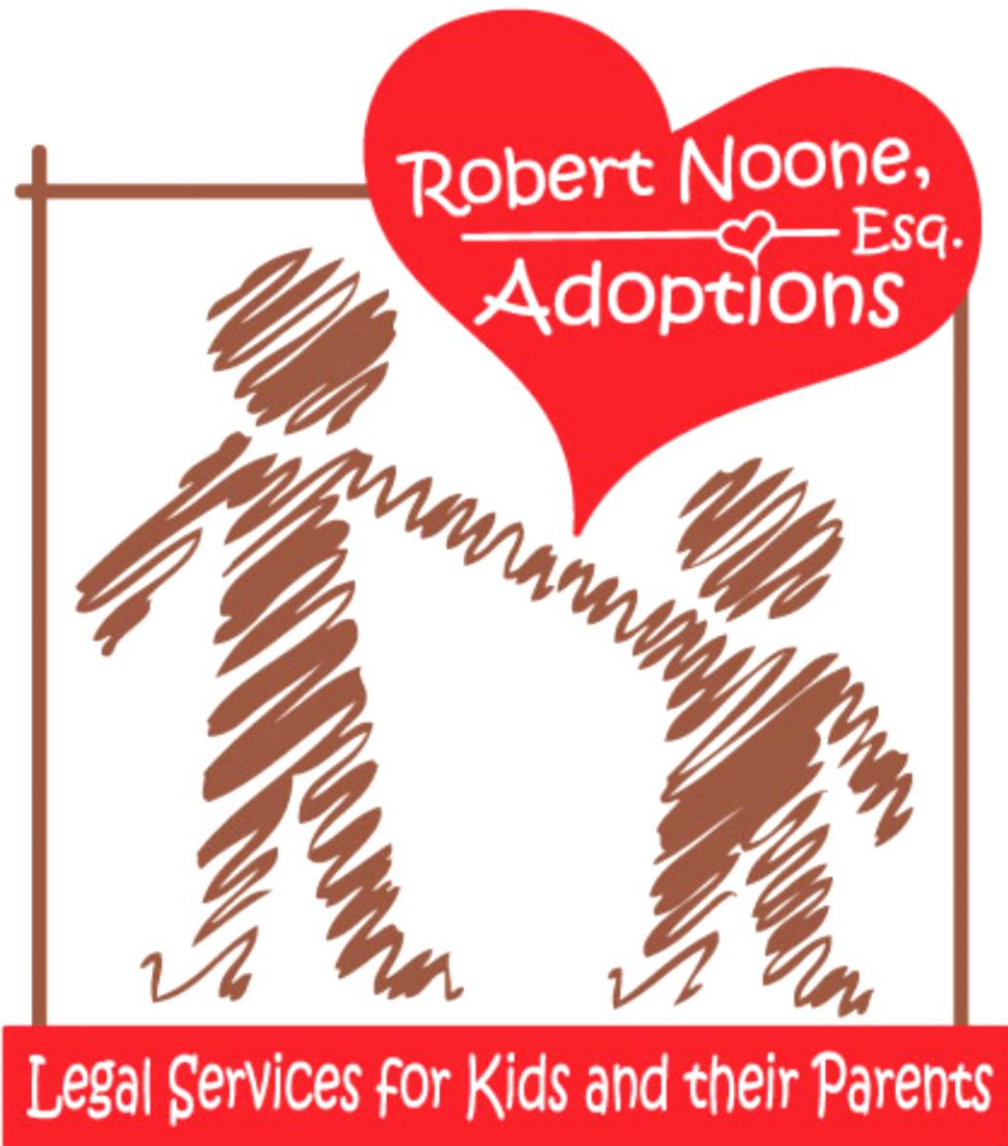
"Dropped



PARTING SHOTS



1. LIFEBOOKS (Learn how to create one with Carrie Craft @ About.com)
2. Can you TEEN get to BE a TEEN? Dating, Cell Phone, Garage Band vs. Praise Team?
3. Effective ORDERS that all GAL to participate in Treatment Meetings, Get Regular Updates!
4. I DIDN'T THINK I HAD A RECORD??
5. Preventing **CROSSOVER** to Juvenile Court (Increase Support for aging out kids, Ed and Art Programs, avoiding minor infractions- advocate! Educate)
6. Maintaining Contact – You are Attorney until PERMANENCY ACHIEVED, then what?



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