

COMPARISON BETWEEN SUBSIDIZED TRANSFER OF GUARDIANSHIP AND ADOPTION

(UPDATED 12.31.18)

	Subsidized Transfer of Guardianship	Adoption
Legal Status	<p>Subsidy only permitted when reunification or adoption is not an appropriate permanency option.</p> <p>Regular STOG (Subsidized Transfer of Guardianship) A youth age 14 and older must be consulted about the STOG plan. The child must be placed in the home for 6 months following licensure of the proposed guardian. Parents can petition the court to regain custody.</p> <p>Permanent STOG (Subsidized Transfer of Guardianship) A youth age 12 and older must consent to the plan of permanent guardianship. Permanent guardianship requires a TPR ground. The child must be placed in the home for a minimum of one year and the proposed guardian must concurrently be licensed for 6 months. Once finalized the birth parents cannot petition the court to regain custody.</p> <p>Reference CGS Section 17a-126</p>	<p>Adoption is a permanent legal relationship involving the complete severance of all parental rights of the birth parents.</p> <p>A youth age 12 and older must be in agreement and sign the adoption consent court paperwork.</p> <p>Reference CGS Section 17a-117-120</p>
Decision Making for Child	STOG guardians make all decisions regarding school, medical treatment and consent for major life decisions regarding the child, subject only to court orders.	Adoptive parents have all the rights and responsibilities of a parent. Adoption allows for all decision making by the adoptive parents.
Process	The subsidized guardianship packet for the child/youth in placement must be approved by OCHYP prior to the court entering the final STOG disposition.	The application and signed Adoption contract along with collateral supporting documentation must be approved by OCHYP prior to the family signing off and prior to the court entering the final Adoption disposition.
Successor Guardian	The Department must request that the caregiver identify a successor guardian who may receive the subsidy when the caregiver is unable to continue to care for the child due to death, severe disability or serious illness.	No statutory ability to identify a successor for Adoption.

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Financial Assistance (subsidized programs only)	<p>STOG guardian may receive a subsidy that shall be negotiated up to 100% of the foster care rate. The subsidy continues until the youth is age 18, or up to age 21 if the youth remains in full time attendance at a secondary school, technical school, college or state-accredited job training program.</p> <p>An annual subsidy review is completed for all STOG cases. For all medically complex children an updated 2101 is required from the primary medical provider. Should the child no longer be medically complex the subsidy will be reduced to the basic rate. Yearly compliance will be required to confirm the youth is residing with the caregiver, enrolled full time and attending a secondary or post-secondary educational program.</p>	<p>Families must be licensed as foster/adoption. A child must be certified as having "special needs" per the DCF-416 form for Certification of Special Needs Status prior to adoption in order to be eligible for a financial subsidy. Adoptive parents may receive a subsidy that shall be negotiated up to 100% of the foster care rate. The financial subsidy continues until the child's 18th birthday. All youth adopted from age 16-18 will receive a monthly subsidy until their 21st birthday provided they are attending a full time post-secondary education program.</p> <p>A bi-annual subsidy review is completed for all adoption cases. For all medically complex children an updated 2101 is required from the primary medical provider. Should the child no longer be medically complex the subsidy will be reduced to the basic rate.</p>
Medical Coverage	<p>STOG- medical coverage is available to the youth up to their 18th birthday.</p> <p>For CT residence STOG Youth age 18-21 medical assistance may be available.</p> <p>For Out of State residence STOG Youth age 18-21, eligibility is determined by the state in which they reside.</p>	<p>Adoption- medical coverage is available to the youth up to their 18th birthday.</p> <p>For CT residence Adoptive Youth age 18-21 medical assistance may be available.</p> <p>For Out of State residence Adoptive Youth age 18-21, eligibility is determined by the state in which they reside.</p>
College Assistance	<p>There is no college assistance provided by DCF for STOG Subsidies.</p>	<p>Within available state appropriations, youth adopted after 12/31/04 are eligible for financial assistance with tuition, room and board up to but not exceeding the in- state cost of the University of Connecticut, up until a Bachelors Level. This amount may be indexed for inflation. Youth must apply for FAFSA (available federal and state grants) and scholarships to qualify for the above. Each semester, students are responsible to provide OCHYP a copy of their semester grades and overall GPA. Overall GPA requirement is 2.0 to remain in good standing. Each year the youth is required to</p>

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		<p>contribute \$500 toward their own education and provide the receipts to OCHYP.</p> <p>Youth must be enrolled prior to the age of 21 years old in a post-secondary program and attending a full time educational program in order for the OCHYP to pay for their education until the age of 23 years old.</p>
Is the case with DCF open or closed?	Closed in the Area Office. A STOG subsidy case remains open at DCF Central Office under OCHYP with an assigned processing technician for financial and review purposes only.	Closed in the Area Office. An Adoption subsidy case remains open at DCF Central Office under OCHYP with an assigned processing technician for financial and review purposes only.
Post-Adoption Support/Post- Subsidized Guardianship Services	<p>Post STOG/TOG support is available until the child/youth turns age 18 through the Adoption Assistance Program at #860-679-4006.</p> <p>Up to age of 18, a guardian may request DCF Voluntary Services through the Careline #1-800-842-2288</p> <p>Guardians may call the OCHYP at DCF Central Office for help with direct deposit, lost checks and some issues related to the child's medical card.</p>	<p>Post-Adoption support is available until the child/youth turns age 18 through the Adoption Assistance Program at #860-679-4006. Support is also available through the Connecticut Alliance of Foster and Adoptive Families (CAFAF) at 860-258-3400.</p> <p>Up to the age of 18, an adoptive parent may request DCF Voluntary Services through the Careline #1-800-842-2288.</p> <p>Adoptive families may call OCHYP at DCF Central Office for help with direct deposit, lost checks, and some issues related to the child's medical card.</p>