



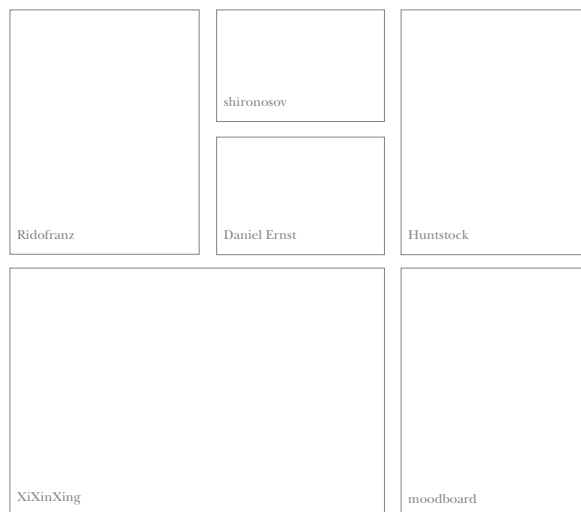
THE SUPREME COURT *of* OHIO

BRIDGES PROGRAM TOOLKIT



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BRIDGES PROGRAM TOOLKIT FOR JUDICIAL USE



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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This publication was made in collaboration with the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services. We would like to thank the staff of the Bureau of Young Adults and the Courts for their assistance in the Workgroup and the development of this publication.

The Subcommittee on Responding to Child Abuse, Neglect and Dependency and the Supreme Court of Ohio would like to extend our thanks to the Family and Youth Law Center at the Capital University Law School for their assistance in creating this publication.



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1. INTRODUCTION

The Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act (Act) was signed into law on October 7, 2008, by President George W. Bush. The Act amended Title IV-E of the Social Security Act, allowing states the option to extend Title IV-E funding for eligible youth up to age 21. This amendment was intended to improve outcomes for older youth in foster care. To support the successful transition to adulthood, the Act allows the funding to cover the costs of “a supervised setting in which the individual is living independently,” which may include living situations such as dormitories, host homes, or other housing arrangements with a supervising worker.¹

In Ohio, close to 1,000 youth emancipate from placement each year. A review of the youth’s outcomes in school enrollment, earning a diploma, homelessness, and incarceration showed that Ohio’s emancipated youth were not doing as well as young adults in states with the extended foster-care benefit. In June 2016, Governor John Kasich signed replacement House Bill 50 (HB 50), which authorized the implementation of “Foster care to 21” in Ohio. HB 50 was codified in [R.C. §§ 5101.141 - 5101.1414](#). This legislation is intended to assist young adults in gaining skills towards self-sufficiency by providing monetary assistance with stable housing; support to complete educational and employment goals; and access to community resources.

Under the new provisions, the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) was tasked with developing, implementing, and overseeing the new program. This is unlike traditional child-welfare programs in Ohio, which are county-administered. This will be the first state-administered child-welfare program in Ohio.

One of the first tasks required by HB 50 was for ODJFS to create an advisory council to make recommendations for the implementation of the program. This council consists of many stakeholders, including representatives from the Supreme Court of Ohio, a local court, foster care alumni, transitional youth and housing providers, and the Ohio State Bar Association. ODJFS also has worked with local, state and national constituents to begin building the program. One of the first decisions made was to change the name of the program from “Foster Care to 21” to “Bridges.” This name was adopted to be more inclusive of the program’s focus on the successful transition of young adults to independence, rather than the extension of foster care placement.

1 [Program Instruction, ACYF-CB-PI-10-11](#)

The Bridges program is a voluntary program open to young adults who meet eligibility requirements. The Bridges program is intended for emancipated young adults who meet one of the following criteria: 1) completing his or her secondary education; 2) enrolled in post-secondary or vocational education; 3) participating in a program or activity to promote employment; 4) employed; or 5) incapable of the above due to a physical or mental condition ([R.C. § 5101.1411](#)).

The Bridges program is authorized by the federal government under Title IV-E and, therefore, the program must comply with Title IV-E requirements. Specifically, one determinant for Title IV-E eligibility in the program is that the juvenile court must make a judicial determination that it is in the young adult's best interest to extend care and placement. Additionally, the standard Title IV-E annual reasonable-efforts requirements that the juvenile court must make continues with this population, even though reasonable efforts will be different for young adults. The Bridge's advisory council recognized that the courts' input was needed to make recommendations on how these requirements would be addressed in court with this new young-adult population.

2. BRIDGES JUDICIAL WORKGROUP

As part of the advisory council’s planning process, ODJFS asked the Supreme Court of Ohio’s Subcommittee on Responding to Child Abuse, Neglect and Dependency (CAND) to form a judicial workgroup to review the new statutory changes for Bridges program in light of current statutory and procedural requirements and make recommendations regarding the juvenile court’s role in the program and how it will be implemented from the court’s perspective.

The Workgroup reviewed the current statutory language, practices within Ohio, and practices of other states that already have implemented this program. It was determined that elements of the Bridges program will require procedural and statutory/rule changes as well as educational materials. Outlined below are the Judicial Workgroup’s recommendations in the following topical areas: Population Definition; Court Jurisdiction; Venue; Young Adult’s Right to Counsel; Young Adult Presence at Hearings; Beginning Participation in the Program; Ending Participation in the Program.

A. Recommendations Summary

The Subcommittee on Responding to Child Abuse, Neglect and Dependency (Subcommittee) was given the following charge by the Advisory Committee on Children and Families: *In light of federal and state statutes guiding the Bridges program, identify further statutory and rule changes needed and create a toolkit for the courts to make determinations in accordance with Title IV-E requirements.*

The Subcommittee accepted the following recommendations of the Workgroup:

- This population should be referred to as “young adults” rather than children; all related statutes and rules should be amended to reflect same. 2019 update: R.C. 5101.141 was amended to reflect a new definition of “emancipated young adult” to identify this population.
- A juvenile court with jurisdiction over the young adult when he/she turned 18 should retain jurisdiction over the young adult while the young adult participates in the Bridges program.
- It is the Bridges program’s responsibility to notify the court when a young adult commences and terminates program participation.
- Participants in the Bridges program have a right to counsel upon request as a party to the case and should be clearly notified of this right.
- The Bridges program should work with and encourage the young adult to attend all hearings, either in person or via alternative means.

-
- If the Bridges participant/emancipated young adult moves to a new county, the case may be transferred to the new county. When determining whether to transfer a case, the court should consider multiple factors, such as the young adult's wishes, relationship with the court and access to technology to attend hearings remotely.

3. APPLICABLE FEDERAL AND STATE LAWS

Below are the Ohio statutes pertaining to Bridges program. Applicable sections have been highlighted for easy reference.

Ohio Statutes

5101.141. Administering federal payments for foster care and adoption assistance.

(A) As used in sections 5101.141 to 5101.1414 of the Revised Code:

(1) “Adopted young adult” means a person:

- (a) Who was in the temporary or permanent custody of a public children services agency;
- (b) Who was adopted at the age of sixteen or seventeen and attained the age of sixteen before a Title IV-E adoption assistance agreement became effective;
- (c) Who has attained the age of eighteen; and
- (d) Who has not yet attained the age of twenty-one.

(2) “Child” means any of the following:

- (a) A person who meets the requirements of division (B) (3) of section 5153.01 of the Revised Code;
- (b) An adopted young adult;
- (c) An emancipated young adult.

(3) “Emancipated young adult” means a person:

- (a) Who was in the temporary or permanent custody of a public children services agency, a planned permanent living arrangement, or in the Title-IV-E-eligible care and placement responsibility of a juvenile court or other governmental agency that provides Title IV-E reimbursable placement services;
- (b) Whose custody, arrangement, or care and placement was terminated on or after the person’s eighteenth birthday; and
- (c) Who has not yet attained the age of twenty-one.

(4) “Representative” means a person with whom the department of job and family services has entered into a contract, pursuant to division (B) (2) (b) of this section.

(5) “Title IV-E” means Title IV-E of the “Social Security Act,” 94 Stat. 501, 42 U.S.C. 670(1980), as amended.

(B)

- (1) Except as provided in division (B)(2) of this section, the department of job and family services shall act as the single state agency to administer federal payments for foster care and adoption assistance made pursuant to Title IV-E. The director of job and family services shall adopt rules to implement this authority. Rules governing financial and administrative requirements applicable to public children services agencies and government entities that provide Title IV-E reimbursable placement services to children shall be adopted in accordance with section 111.15 of the Revised Code, as if they were internal management rules. Rules governing requirements applicable to private child placing agencies and private noncustodial agencies and rules establishing eligibility, program participation, and other requirements concerning Title IV-E shall be adopted in accordance with Chapter 119. of the Revised Code. A public children services agency to which the department distributes Title IV-E funds shall administer the funds in accordance with those rules.
- (2) If the state plan is amended under divisions (A) and (B) of section 5101.1411 of the Revised Code, both of the following shall apply:
 - (a) Implementation of the amendments to the plan shall begin fifteen months after September 13, 2016, the effective date of H.B. 50 of the 131st general assembly, if both of the following apply:
 - (i) The plan as amended is approved by the secretary of health and human services;
 - (ii) The general assembly has appropriated sufficient funds to operate the program required under the plan as amended.
 - (b) The department shall have, exercise, and perform all new duties required under the plan as amended. In doing so, the department may contract with another person to carry out those new duties, to the extent permitted under Title IV-E.

(C)

- (1) Except with regard to the new duties imposed on the department or its contractor under division (B)(2)(b) of this section that are not imposed on the county, the county, on behalf of each child eligible for foster care maintenance payments under Title IV-E, shall make payments to cover the

cost of providing all of the following:

- (a) The child's food, clothing, shelter, daily supervision, and school supplies;
- (b) The child's personal incidentals;
- (c) Reasonable travel to the child's home for visitation.

(2) In addition to payments made under division (C)(1) of this section, the county may, on behalf of each child eligible for foster care maintenance payments under Title IV-E, make payments to cover the cost of providing the following:

- (a) Liability insurance with respect to the child;
- (b) If the county is participating in the demonstration project established under division (A) of section 5101.142 of the Revised Code, services provided under the project.

(3) With respect to a child who is in a child-care institution, including any type of group home designed for the care of children or any privately operated program consisting of two or more certified foster homes operated by a common administrative unit, the foster care maintenance payments made by the county on behalf of the child shall include the reasonable cost of the administration and operation of the institution, group home, or program, as necessary to provide the items described in divisions (C)(1) and (2) of this section.

(D) To the extent that either foster care maintenance payments under division (C) of this section or Title IV-E adoption assistance payments for maintenance costs require the expenditure of county funds, the board of county commissioners shall report the nature and amount of each expenditure of county funds to the department.

(E) The department shall distribute to public children services agencies that incur and report expenditures of the type described in division (D) of this section federal financial participation received for administrative and training costs incurred in the operation of foster care maintenance and adoption assistance programs. The department may withhold not more than three per cent of the federal financial participation received. The funds withheld may be used only to fund the following:

- (1) The Ohio child welfare training program established under section 5103.30 of the Revised Code;

- (2) The university partnership program for college and university students majoring in social work who have committed to work for a public children services agency upon graduation;
- (3) Efforts supporting organizational excellence, including voluntary activities to be accredited by a nationally recognized accreditation organization.

The funds withheld shall be in addition to any administration and training cost for which the department is reimbursed through its own cost allocation plan.

- (F) All federal financial participation funds received by a county pursuant to this section shall be deposited into the county's children services fund created pursuant to section 5101.144 of the Revised Code.
- (G) The department shall periodically publish and distribute the maximum amounts that the department will reimburse public children services agencies for making payments on behalf of children eligible for foster care maintenance payments.
- (H) The department, by and through its director, is hereby authorized to develop, participate in the development of, negotiate, and enter into one or more interstate compacts on behalf of this state with agencies of any other states, for the provision of social services to children in relation to whom all of the following apply:
 - (A) They have special needs.
 - (B) This state or another state that is a party to the interstate compact is providing adoption assistance on their behalf.
 - (C) They move into this state from another state or move out of this state to another state.

Sec. 5101.1411. Federal payments for foster care and adoption assistance.

- (A)
 - (1) The director of job and family services shall, not later than nine months after September 13, 2016, the effective date of H.B. 50 of the 131st general assembly, submit an amendment to the state plan required by 42 U.S.C. 671 to the United States secretary of health and human services to implement 42 U.S.C. 675(8) to make federal payments for foster care

under Title IV-E directly to, or on behalf of, any emancipated young adult who meets the following requirements:

(a) The emancipated young adult signs a voluntary participation agreement.

(b) The emancipated young adult satisfies division (C) of this section.

(2) Any emancipated young adult who meets the requirements of division (A)(1) of this section may apply for foster care payments and make the appropriate application at any time.

(B)

(1) The director of job and family services shall, not later than nine months after September 13, 2016, the effective date of H.B. 50 of the 131st general assembly, submit an amendment to the state plan required by 42 U.S.C. 671 to the United States secretary of health and human services to implement 42 U.S.C. 675(8) to make federal payments for adoption assistance under Title IV-E available to any parent who meets all of the following requirements:

(a) The parent adopted a person who is an adopted young adult and the parent entered into an adoption assistance agreement under 42 U.S.C. 673 while the adopted person was age sixteen or seventeen.

(b) The parent maintains parental responsibility for the adopted young adult.

(c) The adopted young adult satisfies division (C) of this section.

(2) Any parent who meets the requirements of division (B)(1) of this section that are applicable to a parent may request an extension of adoption assistance payments at any time before the adopted young adult reaches age twenty-one.

(3) An adopted young adult who is eligible to receive adoption assistance payments is not considered an emancipated young adult and is therefore not eligible to receive payment under division (A) of this section.

(C) In addition to other requirements, an adopted or emancipated young adult must meet at least one of the following criteria:

(1) Is completing secondary education or a program leading to an equivalent credential;

-
- (2) Is enrolled in an institution that provides post-secondary or vocational education;
 - (3) Is participating in a program or activity designed to promote, or remove barriers to, employment;
 - (4) Is employed for at least eighty hours per month;
 - (5) Is incapable of doing any of the activities described in divisions (C)(1) to (4) of this section due to a physical or mental condition, which incapacity is supported by regularly updated information in the person's case record or plan.
- (D) Any emancipated young adult described in division (A)(1) of this section who is directly receiving foster care payments, or on whose behalf such foster care payments are received, or any parent receiving adoption assistance payments, may refuse the payments at any time.
- (E)
- (1) An emancipated young adult described in division (A)(1) of this section who is directly receiving foster care payments, or on whose behalf such foster care payments are received, or a parent receiving adoption assistance payments and the adopted young adult shall be eligible for services set forth in the federal, "Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008," P.L. 110-351, 122 Stat. 3949.
 - (2) An emancipated young adult described in division (A)(1) of this section who is directly receiving foster care payments, or on whose behalf such foster care payments are received, pursuant to this section, may be eligible to reside in a supervised independent living setting, including apartment living, room and board arrangements, college or university dormitories, host homes, and shared roommate settings.
- (F) Any determination by the department that denies or terminates foster care or adoption assistance payments shall be subject to a state hearing pursuant to section 5101.35 of the Revised Code.

Sec. 5101.1412. Voluntary participation agreement for child's care and placement.

- (A) Without the approval of a court, an emancipated young adult who receives payments, or on whose behalf payments are received, under division (A) of section 5101.1411 of the Revised Code, may enter into a voluntary

participation agreement with the department of job and family services, or its representative, for the emancipated young adult's care and placement.

The agreement shall stay in effect until one of the following occurs:

- (1) The emancipated young adult enrolled in the program notifies the department, or its representative, that they want to terminate the agreement.
 - (2) The emancipated young adult becomes ineligible for the program.
- (B) During the one-hundred-eighty-day period after the voluntary participation agreement becomes effective, the department or its representative shall seek approval from the court that the emancipated young adult's best interest is served by continuing the care and placement with the department or its representative.
- (C) In order to maintain Title IV-E eligibility for the emancipated young adult, not later than twelve months after the effective date of the voluntary participation agreement, and at least once every twelve months thereafter, the department or its representative must petition the court for, and obtain, a judicial determination that the department or its representative has made reasonable efforts to finalize a permanency plan that addresses the department's or its representative's efforts to prepare the emancipated young adult for independence.

Sec. 5101.1413. Payment of nonfederal share.

Notwithstanding section 5101.141 of the Revised Code and any rules adopted thereunder, the department of job and family services shall pay the full nonfederal share of payments made pursuant to section 5101.1411 of the Revised Code. No public children services agency shall be responsible for the cost of any payments made pursuant to section 5101.1411 of the Revised Code.

Sec. 5101.1414. Adoption of rules.

- (A) Not later than nine months after September 13, 2016, the effective date of H.B. 50 of the 131st general assembly, the department of job and family services shall adopt rules necessary to carry out the purposes of sections 5101.1411 to 5101.1413 of the Revised Code, including rules that do all of the following:
- (1) Allow an emancipated young adult described in division (A)(1) of section 5101.1411 of the Revised Code who is directly receiving foster care payments, or on whose behalf such foster care payments are received, or an adopted young adult whose adoptive parents are receiving adoption assistance payments, to maintain eligibility while transitioning into, or out of, qualified employment or educational activities;
 - (2) Require that a thirty-day notice of termination be given by the department to an emancipated young adult described in division (A)(1) of section 5101.1411 of the Revised Code who is receiving foster care payments, or on whose behalf such foster care payments are received, or to a parent receiving adoption assistance payments for an adopted young adult described in division (B)(1) of section 5101.1411 of the Revised Code, who is determined to be ineligible for payments;
 - (3) Establish the scope of practice and training necessary for case managers and supervisors who care for emancipated young adults described in division (A)(1) of section 5101.1411 of the Revised Code who are receiving foster care payments, or on whose behalf such foster care payments are received, under section 5101.1411 of the Revised Code.
- (B) The department of job and family services shall create an advisory council to evaluate and make recommendations for statewide implementation of sections 5101.1411 and 5101.1412 of the Revised Code not later than one month after September 13, 2016, the effective date of H.B. 50 of the 131st general assembly.

R.C. 5101.1415. Person eligible for temporary or permanent custody until age twenty-one.

The provisions of divisions (A) and (C) to (F) of section 5101.1411 of the Revised Code shall not apply if the person is eligible for temporary or permanent custody until age twenty-one pursuant to a dispositional order under sections 2151.353, 2151.414, and 2151.415 of the Revised Code.

Sec. 5103.30. Ohio child welfare training program.

The Ohio child welfare training program is hereby established in the department of job and family services as a statewide program. The program shall provide all of the following:

- (A) The training that section 3107.014 of the Revised Code requires an assessor to complete;
- (B) The preplacement training that sections 5103.031 and 5103.033 of the Revised Code require a prospective foster caregiver to complete;
- (C) The continuing training that sections 5103.032 and 5103.033 of the Revised Code require a foster caregiver to complete;
- (D) The training that section 5153.122 of the Revised Code requires a PCSA caseworker to complete;
- (E) The training that section 5153.123 of the Revised Code requires a PCSA caseworker supervisor to complete;
- (F) The training required under section 5101.1414 of the Revised Code for a case manager and supervisor.

Sec. 2151.353. Orders of disposition of abused, neglected or dependent child.

[...]

(F)

(1) The court shall retain jurisdiction over any child for whom the court issues an order of disposition pursuant to division (A) of this section or pursuant to section 2151.414 or 2151.415 of the Revised Code until the child attains the age of eighteen years if the child is not mentally retarded, developmentally disabled, or physically impaired, the child attains the age of twenty-one years if the child is mentally retarded, developmentally disabled, or physically impaired, or the child is adopted and a final decree of adoption is issued, except that the court may retain jurisdiction over the child and continue any order of disposition under division (A) of this section or under section 2151.414 or 2151.415 of the Revised Code for a specified period of time to enable the child to graduate from high school or vocational school. **The court shall retain jurisdiction over a person who meets the requirements described in division (A)(1) of section 5101.1411 of the Revised Code and who is subject to a voluntary participation agreement that is in effect. The court shall make an entry continuing its jurisdiction under this division in the journal.**

(2) Any public children services agency, any private child placing agency, the department of job and family services, or any party, other than any parent whose parental rights with respect to the child have been terminated pursuant to an order issued under division (A)(4) of this section, by filing a motion with the court, may at any time request the court to modify or terminate any order of disposition issued pursuant to division (A) of this section or section 2151.414 or 2151.415 of the Revised Code. The court shall hold a hearing upon the motion as if the hearing were the original dispositional hearing and shall give all parties to the action and the guardian ad litem notice of the hearing pursuant to the Juvenile Rules. If applicable, the court shall comply with section 2151.42 of the Revised Code.

[...]

Below is the Federal statute pertaining to Bridges program. Applicable sections are highlighted for easy reference.

Federal Law

42 U.S.C. 675 (8)(A) Subject to subparagraph (B), the term “child” means an individual who has not attained 18 years of age.

(B) At the option of a State, the term shall include an individual—

- (i) (I) who is in foster care under the responsibility of the State;
- (II) with respect to whom an adoption assistance agreement is in effect under section 473 if the child had attained 16 years of age before the agreement became effective; or
- (III) with respect to whom a kinship guardianship assistance agreement is in effect under section 473(d) if the child had attained 16 years of age before the agreement became effective;
- (ii) who has attained 18 years of age;
- (iii) who has not attained 19, 20, or 21 years of age, as the State may elect; and
- (iv) who is—
 - (I) completing secondary education or a program leading to an equivalent credential;
 - (II) enrolled in an institution which provides post secondary or vocational education;
 - (III) participating in a program or activity designed to promote, or remove barriers to, employment;
 - (IV) employed for at least 80 hours per month; or
 - (V) incapable of doing any of the activities described in subclauses (I) through (IV) due to a medical condition, which incapability is supported by regularly updated information in the case plan of the child.

Federal Guidance

Reasonable Efforts to Finalize a Permanency Plan “The provisions of section 472(a)(2)(A)(ii) of the Act and 45 CFR 1356.21(b)(2) which require the agency to obtain a judicial determination that the agency made reasonable efforts to finalize a permanency plan every 12 months apply to a child age 18 or older receiving title IV-E foster care maintenance payments who was removed due to a contrary to the welfare judicial determination (i.e., a court-ordered placement), but not to a youth removed from home via a voluntary placement agreement. We expect most youth in extended foster care to have a permanency plan of emancipation or independence, and therefore, the agency’s efforts toward that goal would include activities outlined in a youth’s transition plan and/or case plan. Therefore, we will accept judicial determinations for reasonable efforts to finalize a permanency plan that address the agency’s efforts to prepare the child for independence.”

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children’s Bureau, *Program Instruction 10-11*, July 2010 www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/pi1011.pdf

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

A. POPULATION DEFINITION

The population involved in the Bridges programs should be referred to as “emancipated young adults” rather than children. Referring to this population as “children” is not appropriate and confusing based upon the current use of the term “child” used in code and rules. The participants eligible for this program are not children as the term is generally understood. New code provisions pertaining to all aspects of Bridges should be housed together for easiest accessibility.

Proposed Changes to Statutes

“Emancipated young adult” should be added to the following statutes and rules:

Juvenile Court:

- [2151.011](#) Juvenile court definitions
 - Add definition for “Emancipated young adult”
- [2151.352](#): Right to counsel
 - Include “emancipated young adult.”
- [2151.417](#): Review of child’s placement, custody arrangement or case plan.
 - Include language to address juvenile court’s continuing jurisdiction of Bridges participants.
 - Include language to include annual review hearings and Reasonable Efforts Determinations for Bridges participants.
 - Add “emancipated young adult” where appropriate in statute.
- [2151.271](#): Transfer to juvenile court of child’s residence
 - Add “emancipated young adult.”

Juvenile Rules of Procedure

- [Rule 2](#): Definitions.
 - Add definition for “Emancipated young adult”
- [Rule 3](#): Waiver of rights (to counsel)
 - Add “emancipated young adult” in (D) and (E)
- [Rule 4](#): Assistance of counsel
 - Add “emancipated young adult” to (A).
- [Rule 11](#): Transfer to another county
 - Add “emancipated young adult” in (A) and (B).

Rules of Superintendence

- [Rule 26.03\(H\)\(3\)](#). Permanent custody, custody, parentage, visitation, support enforcement, abuse, neglect, dependency, and URESA records. Permanent custody, custody, parentage, visitation, support enforcement, abuse, neglect, dependency, and URESA records shall be retained for two years after the child who is the subject of the case obtains the age of majority. If the court retains jurisdiction of an abused, neglected or dependent emancipated young adult to extend care and placement, pursuant to R.C. § 5101.141 to 5101.1414, the records shall be retained for two years after the emancipated young adult turns 21. If post decree motions have been filed, records shall be retained for one year after the adjudication of the post-decree motion or the date specified for case files in division (H)(3) of this rule, whichever is later.
- [Rule 44](#). Court Records: Definitions
 - Add emancipated young adult to (H) “Personal identifiers” means social security numbers, except for the last four digits; financial account numbers, including but not limited to debit card, charge card, and credit card numbers; employer and employee identification numbers; and a juvenile or emancipated young adult’s name in an abuse, neglect, or dependency case, except for the juvenile or emancipated young adult’s initials or a generic abbreviation such as “CV” for “child victim.”

B. RETAINING JURISDICTION OVER BRIDGES PARTICIPANT

Pursuant to [R.C. 2151.353](#), the juvenile court that had jurisdiction over the emancipated young adult at the time the young adult turned 18 shall retain jurisdiction while the emancipated young adult participates in the Bridges program. It is the Bridges vendor's responsibility to notify the court when the emancipated young adult enters and leaves program participation.

As a youth nears his or her 18th birthday, it is important that the court considers how terminating custody may affect the youth's current and future status. The decision should be based upon the older youth's individual circumstances rather than age alone. While permanency within a safe and loving home always should be the goal for a youth, terminating custody and returning the youth home shortly before the youth's 18th birthday may not be in the youth's best interest if the decision is being made primarily on the basis of the youth approaching the age of majority. Based on the youth's situation, it may be in the youth's best interest to continue in custody until age 18 if he/she may be eligible to enter Bridges or other independent living services. This should not be construed to infer that a youth should be retained in custody simply for the purpose of Bridges' eligibility when reunification is indicated by a parent's progress on a case plan.

Bridges does not apply if the emancipated young adult is eligible for temporary or permanent custody pursuant to [R.C. 2151.353](#), [R.C. 2151.414](#), and [R.C. 2151.415](#). Bridges is intended to fill the gap in the program continuum. Pursuant to 2151.353(F)(1), some older youth may remain in in the custody of the PCSA past their 18th birthday, which may be a more appropriate plan for that person. For example:

- Older youth who are developmentally disabled and/or physically impaired may be better served by remaining in the custody of the PCSA if the young adult is in need of residing in a licensed facility or his or her needs are too extensive to participate in the Bridges program.
- Older youth who are expected to graduate from high school or vocational school prior to their nineteenth birthday may have factors, such as housing stability, which make it more appropriate to stay in custody until they have graduated. These young adults may be appropriate to enter the Bridges program when their schooling is completed. Remaining in custody past the young adult's eighteenth birthday does not disqualify the young adult from future Bridges participation.

Sample Language to Retain Jurisdiction

When an emancipated young adult's custody is terminated after having reached age 18, the language below is sample language for a court's Judgment Entry form. This language describes the emancipated young adult's potential eligibility in Bridges and allows the Court to retain jurisdiction if an emancipated young adult elects to participate in the program. A sample [Judgement Entry](#) is available for reference in the Appendix.

Sample language:

The emancipated young adult named in the above-captioned matter may be eligible to participate in the Bridges program. The emancipated young adult may enter the Bridges program at any time prior to reaching the age twenty-one and eligibility is met as determined by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, pursuant to R.C. 5101.1411. It is the responsibility of the Bridges' program to notify this court when this emancipated young adult enters and leaves program participation.

This Court shall retain jurisdiction during any period in which this emancipated young adult is in the Bridges program. Jurisdiction on this case will end when the emancipated young adult reaches age 21 or the case is transferred to another county.

C. COUNSEL APPOINTMENT AND GUARDIANS AD LITEM

Participants in the Bridges program have a right to counsel as a party to the case pursuant to [R.C. 2151.352](#) and during any stage of proceedings under Ohio Revised Code [Chapters 2151](#) and [2152](#). If the emancipated young adult is unable to afford independent counsel, counsel should be appointed upon request pursuant to Ohio Revised Code [Chapter 120](#) and Ohio [Juv.R. 4](#). Emancipated young adults should be informed of their right to counsel at the first hearing (best interest determination hearing).

The appointment of a Guardian ad Litem is not considered necessary or appropriate for emancipated young adults in the Bridges program. Relevant case law notes that a person over 18 in a delinquency matter is deemed a child for all purposes, including Guardian ad Litem appointment, but no similar case law exists for abuse, neglect, and dependency (AND) cases.

The summons sent to the emancipated young adult for the initial Bridges' hearing should include information regarding the emancipated young adult's right to counsel at the hearing and how to request the same if he or she cannot afford one. A sample [Summons](#) is available for reference in the Appendix.

D. PROGRAM PARTICIPATION AND TERMINATION, REQUIRED HEARINGS

Court Notification: Program Commencement

To begin participation in the Bridges Program, an emancipated young adult must enter into a Voluntary Participation Agreement (VPA) with ODJFS. This VPA is effective for 180 days, but will expire after that time if the court has not determined that it is in the emancipated young adult's best interest to extend care and placement. The vendor that has prepared the VPA with the emancipated young adult must notify the juvenile court that had jurisdiction at the time the emancipated young adult turned 18 that the emancipated young adult has decided to participate in the Bridges program.

A sample [Post-Disposition Motion](#) is available for reference in the Appendix.

Required Hearings

Best Interest Determination Hearing. Upon receipt of notification that an emancipated young adult has a signed VPA and commenced participation in Bridges, the juvenile court is to schedule the Initial/ Best Interest Determination hearing. This hearing must occur no more than 180 days after the effective date of the VPA (the date that ODJFS signs the VPA).

If a judicial determination is not made within 180 days of the VPA's effective date that Bridges participation is in the best interest of the emancipated young adult, then the young adult is not eligible for Title IV-E reimburseability for the span of the emancipated young adult's participation in Bridges. This means that no federal Title IV-E funds will be available to support any of the costs of the emancipated young adult's services provided through Bridges.

Statutory considerations:

- a. See: [R.C. 5101.1412\(B\)](#). During the one-hundred-eighty-day period after the voluntary participation agreement becomes effective, the department or its representative shall seek approval from the court that the emancipated young adult's best interest is served by continuing the care and placement with the department or its representative.

BEST PRACTICE TIP:

Schedule the hearing immediately upon receipt of the post-disposition motion. The Best Interest Determination hearing should be scheduled within four - five months of the effective date of the VPA to allow for continuances while still holding the initial hearing prior to the 180 day deadline.

Annual Reasonable Efforts Determination Hearing. The Juvenile Court must hold an annual reasonable efforts determination hearing. This determination must be made within 12 months of the date the VPA was signed. The judicial determination for reasonable efforts to finalize the permanency plan would need to address the efforts made to prepare the emancipated young adult for independence (ACYF, CB, Program Instruction 10-11, July 2010).

If the court determines that reasonable efforts are not being made, the emancipated young adult is not Title IV-E eligible. This means that the federal funds cannot be utilized to support the emancipated young adult's participation in the Bridges program, but *does not* mean that the emancipated young adult cannot continue to participate. The emancipated young adult's eligibility to participate in the program is based on the emancipated young adult's emancipation from foster care and participation in prescribed activities. The state's failure to make reasonable efforts only affects the funding stream, not the emancipated young adult's eligibility. If the court concludes that the reasonable efforts have not been made, state funds may be used to support that young adult's continued participation in Bridges. Reasonable efforts may be found at a later date, and the emancipated young adult would resume Title IV-E eligibility at that time.

A sample [Reasonable Efforts Determination Hearing Form](#) is available for reference in the Appendix.

Statutory considerations:

- a. See: [R.C. 2151.417\(K\)\(3\)\(a\)](#) Whenever a court is required under this section or section [2151.415](#) or [2151.419](#) of the Revised Code to conduct a review hearing to approve a permanency plan, the court shall determine whether the agency required to develop the plan has made reasonable efforts to finalize it. If the court determines the agency has not made reasonable efforts to finalize the plan, the court shall issue an order finalizing a permanency plan requiring the agency to use reasonable efforts to do the following:
 - (i) Place the child in a timely manner into a permanent placement;
 - (ii) Complete whatever steps are necessary to finalize the permanent placement of the child.
 - (iii) In making reasonable efforts as required in division (K)(3)(a) of this section, the agency shall consider the child's health and safety as the paramount concern.

-
- b. See: 45 CFR 1356.21(b)(2). Judicial determination of reasonable efforts to finalize a permanency plan.

(i) The title IV-E agency must obtain a judicial determination that it has made reasonable efforts to finalize the permanency plan that is in effect (whether the plan is reunification, adoption, legal guardianship, placement with a fit and willing relative, or placement in another planned permanent living arrangement) within twelve months of the date the child is considered to have entered foster care in accordance with the definition at § 1355.20 of this part, and at least once every twelve months thereafter while the child is in foster care.

(ii) If such a judicial determination regarding reasonable efforts to finalize a permanency plan is not made in accordance with the schedule prescribed in paragraph (b)(2)(i) of this section, the child becomes ineligible under title IV-E at the end of the month in which the judicial determination was required to have been made, and remains ineligible until such a determination is made.

Hearing Format

1. Attendance

- a. Bridges vendor or vendor's counsel must be present at all hearings.
- b. Emancipated young adult's counsel
- c. Emancipated young adult
 - i. When possible, the emancipated young adult should attend all required hearings in person.
 - ii. If the emancipated young adult cannot attend a required hearing in person due to an educational or vocational conflict, an alternate method may be utilized (Skype, telephone, etc.).
 - iii. If the emancipated young adult is unable to attend a required hearing in person or via alternate method, the emancipated young adult may sign a waiver, waiving his/her appearance at said hearing. If the hearing appearance is waived, the emancipated young adult may provide the court with a written statement that describes his/her experiences with the program and that documents his/her interest in continuing in the program. Such form shall be provided to the emancipated young adult by his/her vendor representative.
 1. [Sample Waiver](#), available for reference in the Appendix
 2. See [Sample Form for young adult](#), available for reference in the Appendix.

2. Administration

- a. Hearings should be heard by a judge or magistrate.
- b. Hearings may be heard by a Citizen Review Board.

3. Efforts to Finalize Permanency Plan

- a. The Bridges vendor will work with the emancipated young adult to create a Bridges Plan. This plan addresses the federal requirements regarding the permanency plan and is to be considered as the permanency plan.
- b. The Bridges Plan shall be submitted to court 14 calendar days prior to any scheduled hearing (pursuant to [Ohio Administrative Code 5101:2-50-02](#)).
- c. At the Annual Reasonable Efforts hearing, it is recommended that the Bridges vendor submit both the Bridges plan and the most recent Bridges plan review that has been completed by the vendor.

Termination of Program Participation

The Bridges program is voluntary, and an emancipated young adult may choose to leave and re-enter the program at any time until the 21st birthday. Emancipated young adults may also have to leave the program if they no longer meet Bridges program requirements, but they may still become eligible to re-enter the program if they are able to meet program requirements prior to their 21st birthday. The [Notice of Termination \(JFS form 1620\)](#) is provided in the Appendix for reference. This form is completed by the vendor and given to the emancipated young adult to notify them of the termination.

If the emancipated young adult leaves the program or is terminated by the vendor, the vendor shall notify the court. The court should sign an entry stating that the emancipated young adult has terminated participation in the program and end the court's jurisdiction over the emancipated young adult.

If the emancipated young adult later signs a new VPA, the vendor will notify the court that has jurisdiction over the emancipated young adult that there is a new VPA. The court shall schedule a new Best Interest Determination Hearing. If the emancipated young adult has moved, the vendor will notify the court that has jurisdiction over the emancipated young adult that there is a new VPA and the emancipated young adult has moved to a new county. The court may then transfer venue to the new county.

Supreme Court Reporting

For Supreme Court reporting purposes, entry into the Bridges program does not constitute a new AND case nor cause the reopening of the original AND or permanent custody case. Although these cases do not need to be reported on Statistical Report Form D, these cases should be monitored through the court's case management system to ensure statutory timelines are met.

E. VENUE

Pursuant to [Juv.R. 11](#), if the emancipated young adult moves to a new county, the case may be transferred to the county where the young adult is residing.

Transfer of venue may be appropriate in the following circumstances:

1. The emancipated young adult is attending school in a new county that is substantially far away from the current county and the emancipated young adult will not be able to actively and effectively participate in the hearings via Skype, telephone or other technology.
2. The emancipated young adult has moved to a new county that is substantially far away and intends to stay there indefinitely, and the emancipated young adult will not be able to actively and effectively participate in the hearings via Skype, telephone or other technology.
3. The emancipated young adult has expressed a desire to have his or her case transferred because the original venue is no longer appropriate.

Factors to Weigh When Considering a Transfer of Venue

When making a decision to transfer a case to a different county, the court should consider multiple factors, including, but not limited to:

1. *The emancipated young adult's wishes* – Where does the emancipated young adult wish to have his or her case heard? What are his or her reasons for the choice of venue? Would it be inconvenient for the emancipated young adult to continue to have the case heard in this county?
2. *The emancipated young adult's relationship with the court* – Does the emancipated young adult have a long standing relationship with the current court that will be disrupted if the case is transferred? Does the court believe that the emancipated young adult's history with the court allows for the court to make better decisions in regard to that emancipated young adult?
3. *Technology that would allow the emancipated young adult to attend hearings remotely* – Can the emancipated young adult actively and effectively participate in the hearings via Skype, telephone or other technology? If so, is this a better solution than transferring the case?
4. *The emancipated young adult's access to counsel* – Does the emancipated young adult currently have counsel? If so, will the counsel be able to continue representation if the emancipated young adult's case is transferred? If not, will the emancipated young adult have access to counsel upon transfer?

-
5. *The location of the Bridges Program case manager* – If venue is transferred to another county, will the Bridges case manager be able to attend hearings without undue burden? Will the new county be inconvenient to the case manager?

Best Practice Tip:

When transferring a Bridges case to another county, attach a face sheet containing all pertinent information to the front of the case file. A sample [Venue Transfer Face Sheet](#) is available for reference in the Appendix.

Venue Transfer Process

- A. The Juvenile Court, on its own motion or a motion of a party, may transfer the case for further proceedings as required.
- B. The Juvenile Court should fill out the [Sample Venue Transfer Face Sheet](#) (found in the Appendix) to be attached to the case file when sent to the new court.
- C. The new Juvenile Court should be contacted and informed that this case is being transferred to their court.
- D. Certified copies of all legal and social records pertaining to the proceeding shall accompany the transfer, including the face sheet.
- E. The new court should inform the other court that it has received the case file and has accepted the transfer.

F. APPEALS

An emancipated young adult has the ability to appeal a denial or termination of Bridges participation through the state appeal process. Any emancipated young adult who was denied enrollment or who was terminated from Bridges may request a state hearing, as described in 5101:2-50-05. The emancipated young adult has ninety calendar days from the mailing date of the denial or termination notice to request a state hearing. If the 90th day falls on a weekend or holiday, then the next business day shall be recorded as the 90th day.

If the emancipated young adult submits a hearing request to the state or local agency within 15 calendar days of the mailing date of the termination notice, then bridges benefits shall continue pursuant to division [5101:6 of the Administrative Code](#) until a state hearing decision is issued.

The [Bridges State Hearing Request Form \(JFS 1622\)](#) is available for reference in the Appendix.

5. TIPS TO ENGAGE EMANCIPATED YOUNG ADULTS IN THE COURT PROCESS

Empowerment

Emancipated young adults transitioning out of foster care have had little opportunity to make decisions regarding their own welfare.

- Empower them to make decisions on their own but provide guidance and advice.
- Explain why the emancipated young adult cannot make a certain decision because of impossibility (legal or otherwise) and make sure he or she understands the explanation.
- Consult with the emancipated young adult when scheduling hearings so they don't interfere with the emancipated young adult's daily routine (i.e., school, work, counseling, job search) and/or his or her children's daily routine.
- Ask the emancipated young adult what he or she wants to accomplish both long and short term, including what he or she plans to accomplish prior to the next hearing.

Educate Emancipated Young Adults on the Process

While emancipated young adults are not strangers to the courtroom, many may not understand the process and what to expect during court proceedings.

- Prepare the emancipated young adult for each hearing by telling him or her who will be present and each party's role; also explain what is expected of them during the hearing.
- Distribute 'Tips for Emancipated Young Adults in Court' to help the emancipated young adult prepare for the hearing.
- Read anything the emancipated young adult gives to the court while he or she is present.
- If appropriate, share courts documents with the emancipated young adult and provide an explanation of why all the paperwork is necessary.
- After the hearing, debrief the emancipated young adult and explain what comes next and what is expected of him or her leading up to the hearing.

Communicate High Expectations and Recognize Success

Emancipated young adults have likely heard more about their limitations than about what they can achieve.

- Use positive language about future possibilities
- Use forward-looking language (i.e., “when you go to college...” or “when you start your new job...”)
- Celebrate and publicly praise achievements and milestones made toward the transition plan.

Sources

1. https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubPDFs/youth_transition.pdf
2. [http://dhs.phila.gov/dhsphilagovp.nsf/AttachmentsByTitle/YoungAdultGuide/\\$FILE/23969+handbook.pdf](http://dhs.phila.gov/dhsphilagovp.nsf/AttachmentsByTitle/YoungAdultGuide/$FILE/23969+handbook.pdf)
3. <http://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/Files/Publications-Files/Publications-for-Victims/FosterCareAdvisoryGroupRecommendations>
4. <http://benchbook.texaschildrenscommission.gov/pdf/Bench%20Book%202016%20Long%20Checklists%2012.pdf>

6. TIPS FOR EMANCIPATED YOUNG ADULTS IN COURT

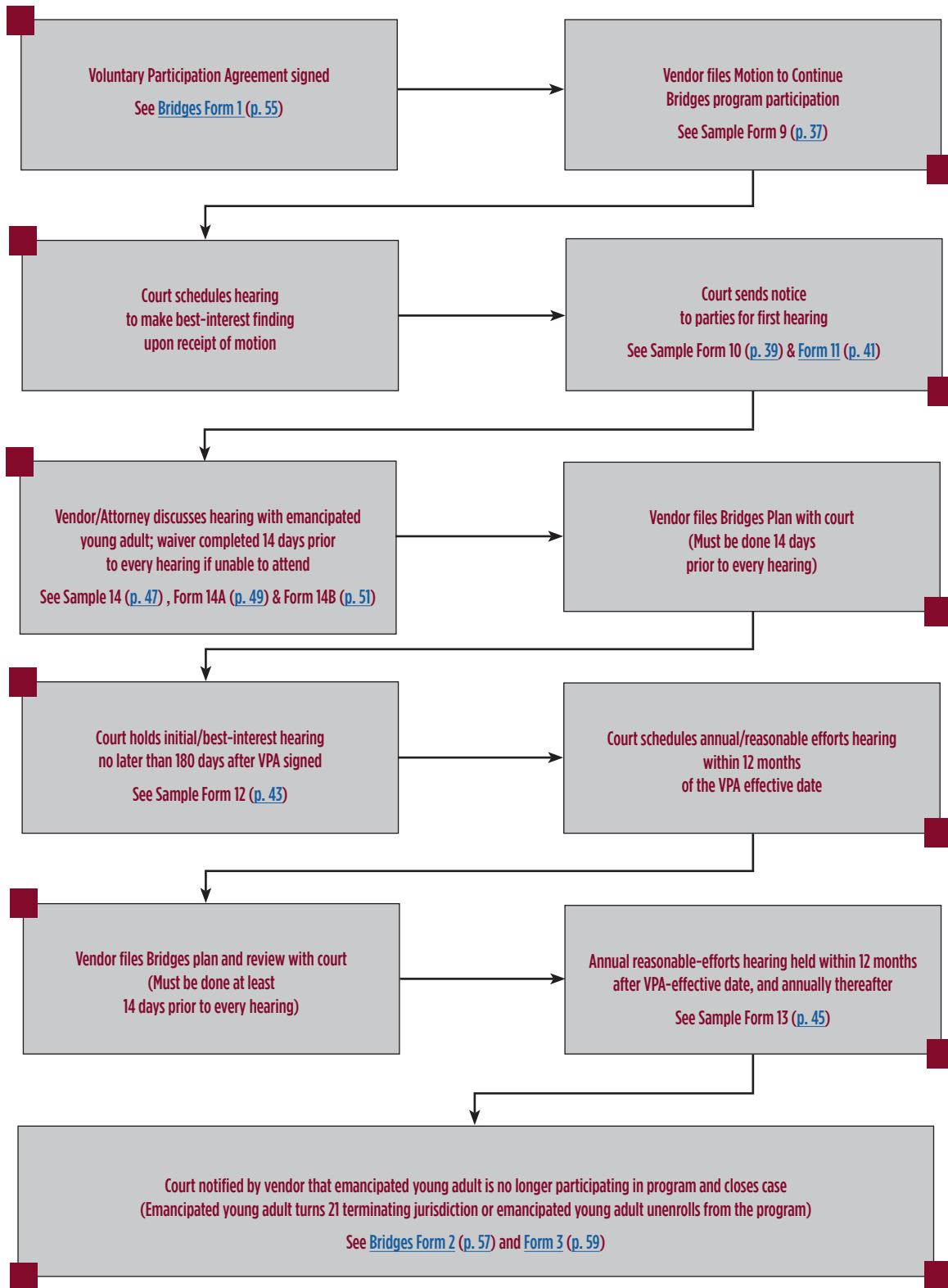
(Adapted for emancipated young adults from the Tips for Youth in Court brochure.)

As an emancipated young adult in the Bridges Program, court hearings are an opportunity to share your progress and goals with the court. These court hearings are informal, non-adversarial hearings to make sure your needs are being met and that you have the support needed to be an independent, self-sufficient adult. The court has to determine if the Bridges Program is doing all it can to support your progress. Below are some tips to help you get the most out of your hearing.

- Open and retain all mail sent to you by the juvenile court.
- If you wish to have an attorney appointed by the court to represent you, call the court and let them know as soon as you can.
- You can bring a support person to court to be there for you.
- Make sure that your transportation to the hearing is scheduled well in advance.
- If you have an attorney, be sure to speak with him or her prior to the hearing to review what is to occur and prepare for the hearing. If you do not have an attorney, speak with your Bridges' worker to know what to expect at the hearing.
- Make sure to arrive to court early to get settled and prepared prior to the hearing.
- Many courts have rules about appropriate clothing; ask your Bridges' worker or attorney about what is acceptable.
- Do not chew gum, eat, or drink in the courtroom.
- Dress in a way that shows respect for the court.
- Make sure to stand when the judge or magistrate enters or exits the courtroom. The court officer will tell you when to sit and stand. If you are unsure when you can sit down, you can sit once the judge is seated.
- Always address the judge or magistrate as "Your Honor." Always be respectful of the court.
- Only speak when the judge or magistrate advises you to.
- Stand and speak up when the judge or magistrate talks to you. It is important to remain standing as long as the judge or magistrate speaks to you.
- Speak directly to the judge or magistrate and not to others.

-
- Make sure to speak clearly, as court hearings are recorded by audio or by a court reporter. Do not shake your head when asked questions.
 - Be direct and to the point when answering questions.
 - Present the information in a clear and concise manner – write it before you go to court so there can be a process to review the information.
 - You are able to tell the judge or magistrate what you want or about something that is bothering you about your case.
 - Think about your answer before you give it. Remember, the truth is the right answer.
 - If you don't remember how something happened, say "I don't remember."
 - If you don't understand a question, say "I don't understand the question."
 - If you are asked if something happened and you know it did not, then say so.
 - Never get into an argument or interrupt others who are speaking in court.
 - It is okay to change your mind from one hearing to the next. Let the judge or magistrate know of any changes.
 - When your hearing is completed make sure to exit the courtroom immediately.
 - Do not carry on conversations with others, as other hearings may take place as soon as yours ends and this can interfere with the court's recording.
 - Have discussions outside the courtroom or in a private place.
 - Do not leave the courthouse until you know what the next step is in your case.

7. BRIDGES CASE FLOW CHART WITH BENCHMARKS & TIMEFRAMES





APPENDIX: SAMPLE FORMS

8. Sample Judgement Entry, with jurisdiction for Bridges
9. Sample Post-Dispositional Motion for Bridges
10. Sample Summons, including Request for Counsel
11. Sample Summons, including Affidavit of Indigency
12. Sample Initial Hearing/Best Interest Determination Hearing Entry
13. Sample Reasonable Efforts Determination Hearing Entry
14. Sample Waiver of Appearance Procedure
 - 14A. Sample Waiver of Appearance Form
 - 14B. Sample Court Information Form
15. Sample Venue Transfer Face Sheet

ODJFS BRIDGES FORMS

1. Bridges Voluntary Participant Agreement (JFS 1617)
 - a. Completed by participant and ODJFS representative
2. Bridges Notice of Termination Form (JFS 1620)
 - a. Completed by vendor, vendor gives to participant
3. Bridges State Hearing Request Form (JFS 1622)
 - a. Completed by participant
4. Bridges Regional Map



8.

SAMPLE JUDGEMENT ENTRY with Jurisdiction for BRIDGES

**Note: Modeled from multiple counties juvenile court forms*

**IN THE COMMON PLEAS COURT OF _____, OHIO
JUVENILE DIVISION**

In re _____ **Case No.** _____

Judge _____

Date of Hearing: _____ Magistrate _____

Hearing Type:

- Annual Review/Permanency Hearing
- Terminate Temporary Custody
- Terminate Protective Supervision
- Transfer Legal Custody
- First Extension of Temporary Custody
- Motion to Change Disposition
- Terminate Custody/Emancipation*
- Retain Jurisdiction*
- _____

Parties Present:

- Mother _____
- Father _____
- Custodian _____
- GAL _____
- Agency Attorney _____
- Caseworker _____
- Child _____
- Child's Attorney _____
- Other attorney _____
- Other attorney _____
- Other _____
- Other _____

*The emancipated young adult named in the above-captioned matter may be eligible to participate in the Bridges program pursuant to R.C. §5101.1411. It is Bridges' responsibility to notify this court when this emancipated young adult enters and leaves program participation. This Court shall retain jurisdiction during any period in which this emancipated young adult is in the Bridges program. Jurisdiction on this case will end when the emancipated young adult reaches age twenty-one or the case is transferred to another county.

Findings

- Party's/parties' right to counsel explained and waived. not waived, will retain counsel.
- Parent(s)/Custodian, _____ duly served, but failed to appear or respond.
- All issues resolved by agreement. _____
- Evidentiary hearing held. See attached finding of fact.
- Specified relative (name/relationship) from whom child(ren) were removed:

- Issues to be addressed through services to the family include:

- Services identified for each party/progress made:

- Child(ren)'s Placement: _____

8. **SAMPLE JUDGEMENT ENTRY** with Jurisdiction for **BRIDGES - cont.**

**Note: Modeled from multiple counties juvenile court forms*

Reasonable Efforts

The agency **has** **has not** made reasonable efforts to prevent the need for placement, removal of the child from the home and/or make it possible for the child to remain in the home or safely return to the home. The Court makes this finding based on the following efforts for the child(ren):

The Court makes this finding based on the following efforts for the mom dad other person whom the child(ren) was removed: _____

- The court makes the determination that the agency is not required to make reasonable efforts to prevent the need for placement, removal of the child from the home and/or make it possible for the child to remain in the home or safely return to the home, pursuant to R.C. 2151.419(A)(2)(a)-(e), based on the following: _____
- _____

Best Interest

- Based upon the evidence presented, the Court finds that continued residence of the child(ren) in the home, or return to the home, would be contrary to the child(ren)'s best interest and welfare.
- The approved permanency plan and dispositional orders are determined to be in the best interest of the child(ren).

Permanency Plan Review

The Permanency Plan is: Reunification Permanent Custody
 Protective Supervision Legal Custody Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (PPLA)

The Agency **has** **has not** made reasonable efforts to finalize this Permanency Plan for the child(ren). Those efforts include: _____

The Permanency Plan **is** **is not** approved.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED THAT:

- The Agency shall provide Protective Supervision of _____,
the above captioned child(ren) in the home of _____.
- By preponderance of the evidence, it is in the best interest of the child(ren) that:
Temporary Custody of _____, the above captioned
child(ren) is awarded to:
- The Agency, _____ effective _____.
- A parent, relative, or other person approved by the Court, _____
_____ effective _____.

8. **SAMPLE JUDGEMENT ENTRY** with Jurisdiction for **BRIDGES** - *cont.*

**Note: Modeled from multiple counties juvenile court forms*

- By clear and convincing evidence, Extension of Temporary Custody of _____, the above captioned child(ren) to Agency Parent, Relative, Other _____
 - is** **is not** in the best interest of the child(ren) and is granted denied.
 - The Court finds there **is** **is not** reasonable cause to believe the child(ren) will be reunified with a parent or otherwise permanently placed within the period of extension.
- The Agency's Protective Supervision Temporary Custody of _____ the above captioned child(ren) is terminated effective, _____.
- It is in the best interest of the child(ren) to be in the Legal Custody of _____
- The child(ren) have been in this home since _____.
- Legal custody of _____, the above captioned child(ren) is awarded to _____, effective _____.
- _____ is/are made a party herein.
- _____ had executed a Legal Custody Statement of Understanding and the same is made a part of the record herein.
- By clear and convincing evidence, a Planned Permanent Living Arrangement **is** **is not** in the best interest of _____ the above captioned child(ren) to the agency, and specifically pursuant to ORC 2151.415(C)(1)(a-c): _____

- Parenting time for _____ shall be:
 - Supervised By agreement of the parties
 - By Court Schedule: _____
- _____ Schools to be responsible for the costs of educating said child(ren). The parent(s), _____ resided at _____ when custody changed.
- The State of Ohio has determined that the parent(s) of the subject child(ren) resided out of state at the time a change of custody was made here. Therefore, no school district can be named as responsible for the costs of education at this time.
- Case plan(s) filed _____ approved (as amended) _____
- All parties shall comply with the approved case plan. Said case plan is incorporated by reference as part of the Court's Order.
- Prior Order for _____ to pay child support in Case/Sets # _____ is terminated, effective _____ The Agency is Ordered to correct their records accordingly.
- Supplemental Support and Health Care Orders are attached hereto and incorporated by reference as part of this Order.
- Payee of Agency Case/Sets # _____ to be changed to _____, effective _____.

8. **SAMPLE JUDGEMENT ENTRY** with Jurisdiction for **BRIDGES** - *cont.*
**Note: Modeled from multiple counties juvenile court forms*

- Future Hearing Dates of _____ are vacated.
- All Court-Appointed Counsel are hereby relieved of their duty and obligation to their clients herein.
- The GAL is hereby relieved of his/her duties and obligation to this/these child(ren).
- _____

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Parties may file written objections to this decision within fourteen (14) days from the date it is filed in the Juvenile Clerk's office. Objections must be specific and state all particular grounds for objection. If the objection is to a *factual finding*, the objection shall be supported by a transcript or an affidavit of the evidence. A party shall not assign as error on appeal the Court's adoption of any factual finding or legal conclusion, whether or not specifically designated as a finding of fact or conclusion of law, unless the party timely and specifically objects to that factual finding or legal conclusion as required by Juvenile Rule 40, Civil Rule 53, and Criminal Rule 19.

Next Hearing: _____

9.

SAMPLE POST-DISPOSITIONAL MOTION for BRIDGES

**Note: Modeled from multiple counties juvenile court forms*

**IN THE COMMON PLEAS COURT OF _____, OHIO
JUVENILE DIVISION**

In re _____ **Case No.** _____
Judge _____
Magistrate _____

MOTION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE BRIDGES PROGRAM

Now comes _____, and respectfully requests Court approval that the emancipated young adult's best interest is served by continuing care and placement through participation in the Bridges Program.

The named emancipated young adult has signed a Voluntary Participation Agreement (attached) and commenced participation in the Bridges Program.

Respectfully submitted,



10.

SAMPLE SUMMONS INCLUDING REQUEST FOR COUNSEL

**IN THE COMMON PLEAS COURT OF _____, OHIO
JUVENILE DIVISION**

In re _____ **Case No.** _____
Judge _____
Magistrate _____

BRIDGES PROGRAM SUMMONS AND ORDER TO APPEAR

Please take notice that there will be a _____ hearing in your case on the _____ day of _____, 20____, at _____ am/pm. The hearing will take place at _____, _____ OH _____ in front of Judge/Magistrate _____.

You have the right to attend your court hearing. You will have the opportunity to be heard and participate in decisions regarding your services and living arrangements. If you cannot attend, you can submit written comments to the court prior to the hearing.

You have the right to an attorney at this hearing and at all stages of the proceedings under Chapters 2151 and 2152 of the Ohio Revised Code, which includes all of the hearings you are required to attend during your participation with the Bridges program. If you cannot afford an attorney, you have the right to request that an attorney be appointed for you at no cost, pursuant to Chapter 120 of the Ohio Revised Code and Ohio Juvenile Rule 4. If you want appointed counsel, the enclosed application must be completed in full, signed, notarized and returned to the Court prior to your hearing.

If you have any questions, please call _____ or go to the clerk's office, Monday through Friday, between the hours of _____.

Instructions to Clerk: Please serve a copy of this notice by regular U.S. mail.

Service completed by: _____ on _____



SAMPLE AFFIDAVIT OF INDIGENCY

FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE FORM

(\$25.00 application fee may be assessed—see notice on reverse side)

I. PERSONAL INFORMATION					
Applicant's Name		D.O.B.	Name of Person Being Represented (if juvenile)		D.O.B.
Mailing Address			City	State	Zip Code
Case No.			Phone ()	Cell Phone ()	
SSN Last 4	Gender	Race <input type="checkbox"/> American Indian or Alaska Native <input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> Black or African American <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander <input type="checkbox"/> Spanish or Latino <input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> Other			
II. OTHER PERSONS LIVING IN HOUSEHOLD					
Name 1)	D.O.B.	Relationship	Name 3)	D.O.B.	Relationship
2)			4)		
III. PRESUMPTIVE ELIGIBILITY					
The appointment of counsel is presumed if the person represented meets any of the qualifications below. Please place an 'X'					
Ohio Works First / TANF: ___ SSI: ___ SSD: ___ Medicaid: ___ Poverty Related Veterans' Benefits: ___ Food Stamps: ___					
Refugee Settlement Benefits: ___ Incarcerated in state penitentiary: ___ Committed to a Public Mental Health Facility: ___					
Other (please describe): _____ Juvenile: ___ (if juvenile, please continue at Section VIII)					
IV. INCOME AND EMPLOYER					
	Applicant		Spouse (Do not include spouse's income if spouse is alleged victim)		Total Income
Gross Monthly Employment Income					
Unemployment, Worker's Compensation, Child Support, Other Types of Income					
TOTAL INCOME					\$
Employer's Name: _____ Phone Number: _____					
Employer's Address: _____					
V. LIQUID ASSETS					
Type of Asset				Estimated Value	
Checking, Savings, Money Market Accounts				\$	
Stocks, Bonds, CDs				\$	
Other Liquid Assets or Cash on Hand				\$	
Total Liquid Assets				\$	
VI. MONTHLY EXPENSES					
Type of Expense		Amount	Type of Expense		Amount
Child Support Paid Out			Telephone		
Child Care (if working only)			Transportation / Fuel		
Insurance (medical, dental, auto, etc.)			Taxes Withheld or Owed		
Medical / Dental Expenses or Associated Costs of Caring for Infirm Family Member			Credit Card, Other Loans		
Rent / Mortgage			Utilities (Gas, Electric, Water / Sewer, Trash)		
Food			Other (Specify)		
EXPENSES		\$	EXPENSES		\$
VII. DETERMINATION OF INDIGENCY					
If applicant's Total Income in Section IV is at or below 187.5% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines, counsel must be appointed.					
For applicants whose Total Income in Section IV is above 125% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines, see recoupment notice in Section XI.					
If applicant's Liquid Assets in Section V exceed figures provided in OAC 120-1-03, appointment of counsel may be denied if applicant can employ counsel using those liquid assets.					
If applicant's Total Income falls above 187.5% of Federal Poverty Guidelines, but applicant is financially unable to employ counsel after paying monthly expenses in Section VI, counsel must be appointed.					



12. SAMPLE INITIAL HEARING/BEST INTEREST DETERMINATION HEARING ENTRY

IN THE COMMON PLEAS COURT OF _____, OHIO
JUVENILE DIVISION

In re _____ Case No. _____
Judge _____
Magistrate _____

**BRIDGES PROGRAM
INITIAL HEARING / BEST INTEREST DETERMINATION**

This matter came before the court for a Bridges Program Initial Hearing and Best Interest Determination on _____ before Judge/Magistrate _____.

Persons in attendance:

- Emancipated Young Adult: _____
If not present, waiver form filled out and submitted on: _____
- Emancipated Young Adult's attorney: _____
- Bridges Representative: _____
- Additional Person(s): _____

Findings:

- Party/parties' rights to counsel explained and waived. not waived, will retain counsel.
- Emancipated Young Adult meets eligibility requirements for participation in the Bridges' program.
- Services identified for party/progress made: _____

- Emancipated Young Adult's living arrangement: _____
- Voluntary Participation Agreement (VPA) signed by all parties on: _____
- Bridges Plan filed on: _____

Upon review of the record, testimony, and evidence presented, IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

- The motion to participate in the Bridges Program is GRANTED; and that, pursuant to ORC 5101.1412(B), the emancipated young adult's best interest is served by his/her participation in the Bridges Program.

The Court makes this finding based on the following: _____

12. SAMPLE INITIAL HEARING/BEST INTEREST DETERMINATION
HEARING ENTRY - cont.

- The motion to participate in the Bridges Program is DENIED. Pursuant to ORC 5101.1412(B), the emancipated young adult's best interest is not served by his/her participation in the Bridges Program. The Court makes this finding based on the following:

- It is further ordered that: _____

The case is ordered to be heard on the following dates:

1st Annual Reasonable Efforts Hearing: _____ Day of _____ 20 ____ at _____

2nd Annual Reasonable Efforts Hearing: _____ Day of _____ 20 ____ at _____

3rd Annual Reasonable Efforts Hearing: _____ Day of _____ 20 ____ at _____

_____ Date _____ Magistrate

_____ Date _____ Judge

13. SAMPLE REASONABLE EFFORTS DETERMINATION HEARING ENTRY

IN THE COMMON PLEAS COURT OF _____, OHIO
JUVENILE DIVISION

In re _____ Case No. _____
Judge _____
Magistrate _____

ANNUAL REVIEW HEARING/PERMANENCY REVIEW BRIDGES PROGRAM

This matter came before the court for a Bridges program Annual Review Hearing on _____
_____ before Judge/Magistrate _____

Persons in attendance:

- Emancipated Young Adult: _____
If not present, waiver form filled out and submitted on _____
- Emancipated Young Adult's attorney: _____
- Bridges Representative: _____
- Additional Person(s): _____

Upon review of the record, testimony, and evidence presented, the Court makes the following findings:

- Bridges Plan and Review filed on: _____
- The Permanency Plan Independence Other: _____
 Is Is not approved.
- The state/vendor **has made reasonable efforts** to finalize a permanency plan. The Court makes this finding based on the following:
 - Emancipated Young Adult's Living Arrangement: _____
 - Emancipated Young Adult's progress in secondary education or program for equivalent credential: _____
 - Emancipated Young Adult's progress in post-secondary or vocational education: _____
 - Emancipated Young Adult's progress in program or activity designed to promote, or remove barriers to employment: _____
 - Emancipated Young Adult's progress in employment: _____

13. SAMPLE REASONABLE EFFORTS DETERMINATION HEARING ENTRY -
cont.

- Emancipated Young Adult's services for medical condition leading to inability to participate in educational or vocational activities:

- Issues to be addressed through services to the emancipated young adult include:

- Services identified for the emancipated young adult and progress made:

- Progress on other areas identified on Bridges Plan:

The state/vendor **has not made reasonable efforts** to finalize a permanency plan.¹ The Court makes this finding based on the following:

_____ Date

_____ Magistrate

_____ Date

_____ Judge

The case is ordered to be heard on the following dates: _____ Day of _____
20 _____ at _____.

¹ If the court determines that reasonable efforts are not being made, the emancipated young adult is not Title IV-E eligible; the state/vendor will not be able to utilize federal funds to support the young adult's participation in the Bridges program and state funds may be used. Such a determination *does not* mean that the emancipated young adult cannot continue to participate and the emancipated young adult should not be faulted. The emancipated young adult's eligibility to participate in the program is based on the emancipated young adult's emancipation from foster care and participation in prescribed activities pursuant to RC 5101.1411(A)(1) and 5101.1411(C).

SAMPLE WAIVER PROCEDURE

**Note: Modeled from the Lucas County Juvenile Court's Form*

BRIDGES PROGRAM WAIVER PROCEDURE***Purpose***

Why are Bridges participants strongly encouraged to attend all hearings?

1. A Bridges participant is a party to the case and is to attend all hearings.
2. Hearing attendance encourages the emancipated young adult to advocate for him/herself and become more independent.
3. Attendance provides the emancipated young adult with more complete information regarding his/her participation in the program.
4. Attendance provides the court with more complete information regarding the services young adult is receiving and if the young adult has the support needed to meet his or her goals.

Procedure

1. The Bridges program strongly encourages the emancipated young adult to attend the hearing in person. If attending in person is not possible, then the young adult's attorney and/or Bridges' worker is to work with the court to arrange for the emancipated young adult to participate via Skype or other alternative means.
2. The emancipated young adult's attorney and/or Bridge's worker shall inform the emancipated young adult that it is his or her responsibility to attend the Bridges court hearing, unless the emancipated young adult is unable to do so due to work, school or some other approved reason.
3. At least 14 days prior to every hearing, the attorney and/or Bridges' worker is to meet with the emancipated young adult and discuss the hearing and the young adult's responsibility to attend. The attorney/Bridges' worker is to bring the waiver form to this meeting.
 - a. If the emancipated young adult cannot attend the hearing, the emancipated young adult is to sign the form waiving his/her presence at the hearing. The emancipated young adult must also fill out the information sheet attached to the waiver. The signed waiver form and information sheet should be presented to the Judge or Magistrate before each hearing.
 - b. For emancipated young adults who will attend the hearing, the attorney/caseworker shall discuss with the emancipated young adult what will happen at the hearing and inform the young adult that the hearing will be informal and that the young adult will be asked how he/she is doing in the Bridges Program. The attorney/caseworker should encourage the young to feel free to ask any questions or discuss any issue with the Judge or Magistrate.



14A.

SAMPLE WAIVER FORM

**Note: Modeled from the Lucas County Juvenile Court's Form*

**IN THE COMMON PLEAS COURT OF _____, OHIO
JUVENILE DIVISION**

In re _____ Case No. _____
Judge _____
Magistrate _____

WAIVER OF ATTENDANCE AT BRIDGES HEARING

- You are a party to this case and should, if at all possible, plan to attend the hearing. It is your responsibility as a participant in the Bridges Program to attend the hearing, unless work or school prevents you from doing so.
- If you are unable to attend the hearing in person, you may attend electronically via telephone, Skype or other similar means.
- By attending the hearing, you will have the opportunity to talk to the Judge/Magistrate.
- During court, you will be given the opportunity to tell the Judge/Magistrate about yourself. You may tell the Judge/Magistrate where you are living and your plan for independence. You may tell the Judge/Magistrate about other things that are important in your life, such as visiting with family, school and counseling.
- The Judge/Magistrate will decide if the Bridges Program is meeting its responsibilities that are described in the Voluntary Participation Agreement (VPA).
- Please check one of the boxes below to indicate whether you **WILL** or **WILL NOT** attend court. Sign your name on the line at the bottom of this page and give this paper to your attorney or Bridges caseworker.
- If you are unable to attend due to work or school, you are required to fill out the attached information sheet in order to let the court know how you are doing.
- Even if you sign below that will not attend court, you are allowed to change your mind and go to court.

Young Adult

My name is _____ I have read, or have had someone read to me, the above statement about my responsibility to attend my court hearings. I understand that at least once a year, the Judge will decide if the Bridges Program is providing me with the services agreed to in my VPA Bridges Plan. I understand that if I am unable to attend the court hearing, I must fill out an information sheet to be sent to the court. I also understand that even if I decide not to attend court, I can change my mind and decide that I want to go to court.

- I will attend Court I am unable to attend Court

Signature _____ Date _____

FOR THE BRIDGES WORKER ONLY: As the emancipated young adult's worker, I have spoken with the emancipated young adult in the last 60 days about the opportunity to attend court and talk to the Judge. Within one week before the hearing, I will verify with the young adult that the decision to attend the court hearing has not changed.

Bridges' Worker Signature: _____

Name Printed: _____

Date: _____



14B.

SAMPLE COURT INFORMATION FORM

**Note: Modeled from the Lucas County Juvenile Court's Form*

**IN THE COMMON PLEAS COURT OF _____, OHIO
JUVENILE DIVISION**

In re _____ Case No. _____
Judge _____
Magistrate _____

BRIDGES PARTICIPANT COURT INFORMATION FORM

1. Name: _____
2. Current Address: _____
3. What is your current living arrangement?

4. Who else lives with you?

5. Are you satisfied with where you live?

6. Do you feel safe where you live?

7. Currently, I am:
 - In school
 - Working at least 80 hours per month
 - In a program that is helping me find a job
 - In a program helping me get ready for school
 - Other: _____
8. Who is your Bridges caseworker? _____
 - a. Have the services you received met all your needs (food, shelter, clothing, etc.)?

 - b. Are you satisfied with the services you have received from Bridges?

9. Is there anything you need? (food, clothes, glasses, etc.)

14B.

SAMPLE COURT INFORMATION FORM - cont.

**Note: Modeled from the Lucas County Juvenile Court's Form*

10. Are there any concerns or issues you are dealing with at this time?

11. Do you wish to continue to participate in the Bridges Program? Yes No

Comments: _____

12. What are your plans after you leave the Bridges Program? Where will you live? How will you support yourself? _____

13. What is the next goal you and your caseworker are working toward? _____

14. Who are the important people in your life? How often do you see or talk to them? _____

15. Is there anything else that you would like the Court to know? _____

15.

SAMPLE VENUE TRANSFER FORM

**IN THE COMMON PLEAS COURT OF _____, OHIO
JUVENILE DIVISION**

In re _____ **Case No.** _____
D.O.B. _____ **Judge** _____
_____ **Magistrate** _____

BRIDGES CASE VENUE TRANSFER

Emancipated Young Adult's Current Address: _____

Emancipated Young Adult's Attorney Name and Contact information: _____

Vendor's Name and Contact Information: _____

The case named above is being transferred from _____ Court to

_____ Court for the following reason:

- Emancipated Young Adult has moved to _____ County.
- Emancipated Young Adult is attending school in _____
- Emancipated Young Adult has requested the transfer due to _____
- Other: _____

- The VPA was executed on _____ day of _____, 20 _____.
- This court found that participation in the Bridges Program is in this emancipated young adult's best interest on _____ day of _____ 20 _____.
- This court found that Reasonable Efforts to finalize permanency plan were made on _____ day of _____, 20 _____.
- The last hearing in this case was held on _____ day of _____, 20 _____.
- The next hearing must be schedule by _____ day of _____, 20 _____.



ODJFS 1. SAMPLE BRIDGES VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT (JFS 1617)

Ohio Department of Job and Family Services
BRIDGES VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT

Purpose:

Pending approval by Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (herein after referred to as ODJFS) of the Bridges application submitted on **<Date application was submitted for approval>**, I, **<full name of young adult>**/**<Date of birth>**, hereby request to voluntarily participate in Bridges. By signing, I agree to participate in Bridges as required by ODJFS policy. This agreement outlines specific responsibilities for myself and ODJFS as they relate to Bridges. Failure to follow these expectations may jeopardize my program involvement. I understand this is a voluntary agreement that I may terminate at any time. If I choose to terminate Bridges services, I can later request to resume services by reapplying if I am under the age of 21 and meet at least one eligibility requirement.

Young Adult's Responsibilities:

As a young adult receiving Bridges services, I agree to the following:

- Meet at least one of the following program eligibility requirements:
 - Completing a secondary education or a program leading to an equivalent credential;
 - Enrolled in an institution that provides post-secondary or vocational education;
 - Participating in a program or activity designed to promote, or remove barriers to, employment;
 - Employed for at least eighty hours per month;
 - Is incapable of completing the education or employment requirements due to a diagnosed physical or mental health medical condition.
- Be able to provide documentation of my program eligibility when requested. Forms of documentation may include, but are not limited to: pay stubs, letters from employers or program staff, current class schedule, report cards, current medical records, etc.
- Within 5 calendar days, inform my Bridges worker of any concerns and/or changes with my living arrangement, education or vocational setting, employment, or contact information.
- Within 48 hours, inform my Bridges worker of any new involvement with a child protective services agency.
- Reside in a safe and stable living arrangement that has been agreed upon by my Bridges worker and myself.
- In partnership with my Bridges worker, create an individualized Bridges Plan, and participate in meetings to review this plan.
- Follow through with my responsibilities as outlined in my Bridges Plan, participate in identified services, meet in-person and engage with my Bridges worker monthly, and keep my Bridges worker informed of my needs.
- Attend court reviews as needed for continued program eligibility. If I am unable to attend these reviews, I will notify my Bridges worker at least 72 hours prior to the court review. If it is an emergency, I will notify my Bridges worker as soon as I know that I will not be able to attend.
- Follow the rules and regulations of my living arrangement.
- Follow the requirements of my place of employment, educational or vocational setting, or program to remove barriers.
- As a young adult age 18 or above, ODJFS has no legal or financial responsibility in the event I am charged with a crime, or cause damages to another person's being or property.
- If I am receiving Social Security Benefits, I will notify the local Social Security Administration office that I am enrolled in the Bridges Program. This may impact my Social Security Benefit payment while I am in the program.

ODJFS 1. SAMPLE BRIDGES VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT
(JFS 1617) - cont.

- ODJFS may terminate this agreement if I no longer meet program eligibility requirements.
- If an eligibility requirement is not being met, I have a 60 calendar day grace period in which to re-establish program eligibility. This grace period begins the day after I become ineligible.
- If any of the following occur, I will no longer be eligible for Bridges:
 - No longer in compliance with an eligibility requirement for more than 60 calendar days;
 - Failure to be in face to face contact with Bridges worker for more than 60 calendar days;
 - Incarcerated for more than 60 calendar days;
 - 21st birthday;
 - Death.

Agency Responsibilities:

ODJFS, through a Bridges representative, agrees to the following:

- Provide continued living arrangement benefits and services as long as the eligibility requirements are maintained, and the young adult is residing in an approved living arrangement. These benefits and services include, but are not limited to: living arrangement payments, food, clothing and other incidentals, case management, monthly contacts, service referrals, etc.
- Notify the young adult of the types of documentation that can be used to verify program eligibility. Forms of documentation may include, but are not limited to: pay stubs, letters from employers or program staff, current class schedule, report cards, current medical records, etc.
- Educate the young adult on activities to support continued eligibility.
- In partnership with the young adult, create an individualized Bridges Plan, review and update the plan as needed, notify the young adult of when these reviews will occur, and provide a copy of the plan and all reviews to the young adult.
- Be accessible to the young adult, maintain consistent contact with the young adult, and meet in-person with the young adult at least every 30 calendar days, or more frequently if needed.
- Notify the young adult of all court proceedings required for continued program eligibility, assist the proceedings.
- Assist the young adult in developing and achieving goals for independent living, and help them learn how to utilize services and supports to help the young adult meet their needs.
- Assist the young adult in remaining connected to or establishing permanent connections and supports.
- Assist the young adult in locating a safe and supportive living arrangement that is free of violence, abuse, and neglect.
- Ensure the young adult has Medicaid or other health insurance, and assist the young adult with getting medical, dental, vision, and mental health care as needed.
- 60 calendar days prior to termination, provide the young adult with written notice if they are deemed ineligible for Bridges.
- Refer young adult to PCSA for post emancipation services and support if young adult is no longer eligible for Bridges.

Signatures

Young Adult	Date
ODJFS Representative	Date

ODJFS 2. SAMPLE BRIDGES NOTICE OF TERMINATION FORM (JFS 1620)

Ohio Department of Job and Family Services
BRIDGES NOTICE OF TERMINATION

Bridges Participant	Date of Birth
Mailing Date	Effective Date of Termination

This is a notice of your termination from Bridges. Please review this notice carefully as it outlines the reason(s) for this decision. You have until **<Date: 91 calendar days from Termination Date>** to request a state hearing to appeal the decision if you disagree (except when terminated because you have attained the age of 21). If you submit a state hearing request by **<Date: 16 calendar days from Termination Date>**, then Bridges benefits shall continue until a state hearing decision is issued.

REASONS FOR TERMINATION

- You are now 21 years old and no longer meet the eligibility requirements for Bridges.
- You have not maintained participation in any of the following activities and therefore are no longer eligible for Bridges:
 - Completing secondary education (high school) or a program leading to an equivalent credential.
 - Enrolled in an institution that provides post-secondary (college) or vocation education.
 - Participating in a program that is designed to promote, or remove barriers to, employment.
 - Employed at least 80 hours in a month.
 - Incapable of completing education or employment requirements due to a physical or mental health condition.
- You have not had face to face contact with the Bridges representative for more than 60 calendar days.
- You have been incarcerated for more than 60 calendar days.
- You have been terminated at the discretion of ODJFS administration due to the following behavior(s) or action(s) that limits your participation in Bridges.

This notice of termination is issued pursuant to 5101:2-50-03 of the Ohio Administrative Code. You have the right to reapply if or when you meet all of the eligibility requirements.

If you have questions regarding this decision, you may call:

Name of Bridges Representative	Date	Telephone Number
--------------------------------	------	------------------



ODJFS 3. SAMPLE BRIDGES STATE HEARING REQUEST FORM (JFS 1622)

Ohio Department of Job and Family Services
STATE HEARING REQUEST

Mailing Date:xx/xx/xxxx

IF YOU DISAGREE WITH THIS DECISION, ASK FOR A STATE HEARING

You can ask for a state hearing if you disagree with what we are doing. At your hearing, an ODJFS Bridges representative will explain the reason for this action. You, or someone helping you, can explain the reason(s) why you don't think this decision is right. The state hearing officer will send you a decision after the hearing. If you want a hearing, we must receive your request within 90 days of the notice mailing date. If the 90th day falls on a holiday or weekend, the deadline will be the next work day. You can ask for a hearing in one of the following ways:

Online - <https://www.odjfs.state.oh.us/BSHform>

Email - bsh@jfs.ohio.gov. In the subject line, put "State Hearing Request". In the message, include your name, case number, and reason for requesting a hearing, or a copy of this completed form.

Phone - Call the ODJFS Consumer Access Line at 866-635-3748. Follow the instructions for State Hearings, and mention this notice.

Fax - Complete and sign this form, and fax it to (614)728-9574.

Mail - Complete and sign this form, and mail it to Bureau of State Hearings, P.O. Box 182825, Columbus, Ohio 43218-2825. Retain a copy for your records.

Please fill in the information below. If you report a new address, you must also notify the ODJFS representative of your new information.

Person Requesting the Hearing		Case #
Address		Phone
City, State, Zip	County	

Check one box:

- Bridges Application Denied Terminated from Bridges

Check all boxes that apply:

- I want to do my hearing by telephone. My number is: _____
- I need an interpreter at my state hearing. My language is: _____
- In addition to requesting a state hearing, I would like someone from State Hearings to see if my issue can be resolved without a hearing.
- This person has agreed to help me with my state hearing (my "authorized representative"):

Name	Telephone Number
Address	Fax
City, State, Zip	Email

If you are an authorized representative signing for the person requesting the state hearing, please provide your authorization document along with this hearing request.

Sign Here	Date	Telephone Number
-----------	------	------------------

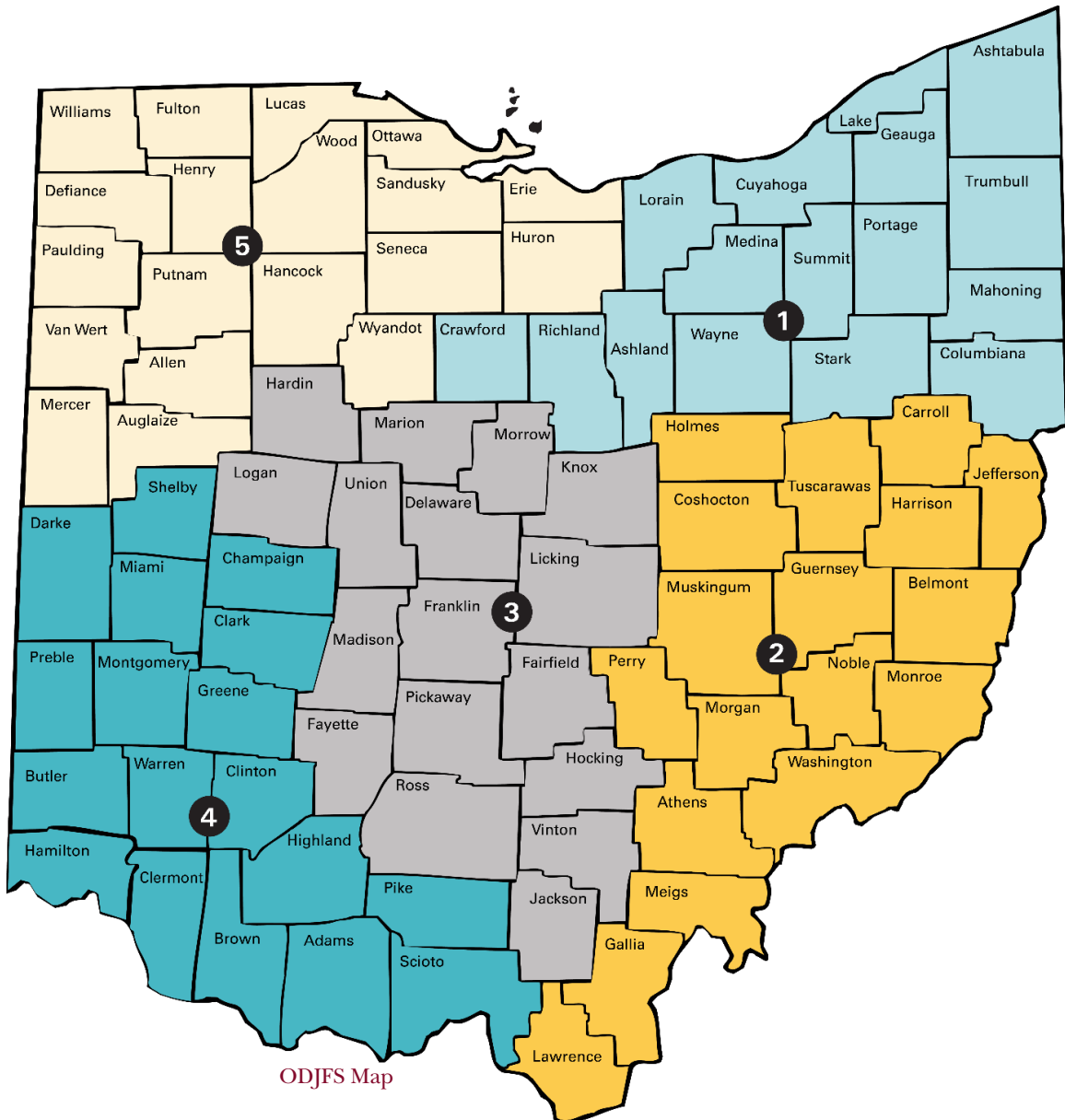
You can ask your local Legal Aid program for free help with your case. Contact your local Legal Aid office by phoning 1-866-LAW-OHIO (1-866-529-6446) or by searching the Legal Aid directory at <http://www.ohiolegalservices.org/programs> on the internet.





Bridges Regional Map

Grantee: The Child and Family Health Collaborative of Ohio, LLC (The Collaborative)





ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

History and Background

The Supreme Court Advisory Committee on Children and Families was originally created by Chief Justice Thomas J. Moyer in 2002, with the purpose of providing ongoing advice to the chief justice and the justices and staff of the Supreme Court. The Advisory Committee's duties include the promotion of statewide rules and uniform standards concerning the establishment and operation of programs for children and families in Ohio courts, the development and delivery of services to Ohio courts on matters involving children and families (including education programs for judges and court personnel), and the consideration of any other issues necessary to assist the Court and its staff regarding children and families in Ohio courts.

The advisory committee consists of no more than 24 members who are appointed by the chief justice. Membership is broad-based and multi-disciplinary so as to represent a cross section of interests related to the issues of children and families in the courts, and represent the gender, racial, ethnic, political, and geographic diversity of Ohio. While the advisory committee itself is limited in size, over one-hundred professionals participate on the advisory committee and its subcommittees and workgroups.

The advisory committee has issued reports on Family Law Reform, Guardian ad litem Standards, and Responding to Child Abuse, Neglect, and Dependency. As a result of these reports the Supreme Court adopted [Rule of Superintendence 48](#) on Guardian ad litem Standards, collaborated on the establishment of Ohio's Alternative Response, and adopted changes to [Rule of Superintendence 44](#) on Court Records, to clarify which Domestic Relations and Juvenile court records are considered confidential.

Current work by the advisory committee has focused on adult guardianship standards in probate court, the need for quality parent representation in child welfare cases, youth and caregiver engagement in court proceedings, and juvenile justice recommendations.

Additional information on the advisory committee, including its current member [roster](#) and reports, is on the Supreme Court's [website](#).

Charge of the Advisory Committee on Children and Families

As issued by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Ohio, the advisory committee shall provide ongoing advice to the Court and its staff regarding all of the following:

- 1) The promotion of statewide rules and uniform standards concerning the establishment and operations of programs for children and families in Ohio courts;
- 2) The development and delivery of services to Ohio courts on matters involving children and families, including education programs for judges and court personnel;
- 3) The consideration of any other issues the advisory committee deems necessary to assist the Court and its staff regarding children and families in Ohio courts.

This publication was funded through a grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Children's Bureau, State Court Improvement Program Grant awarded under the provisions of Section 438 of the Social Security Act; Section 7401 of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 (Public Law 109-171); Titles IV-B and IV-E of the Social Security Act; and the Child and Family Services Improvement and Innovation Act Public Law (112-34).



THE SUPREME COURT *of* OHIO

65 SOUTH FRONT STREET COLUMBUS, OHIO 43215-3431

Published by the Supreme Court of Ohio
Office of Court Services, Children and Families Section
Updated December 2019