

Policy Clarification
Medical Assistance – All
PMA-20492-312

Submitted: 5/20/2021

Agency: CAOs

Subject: Foster Care Medical Assistance (MA) and the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 During the COVID-19 Emergency

Question: If an individual age 21 and over returns to foster care due to the provisions of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021, into which category should they be placed?

Response By: Division of Health Services

Date: 5/21/2021

The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 allows an individual who aged out of foster care (occurs at age 18-21 in Pennsylvania) to voluntarily return to foster care until age 22 to continue receiving the foster care subsidy payment. This provision is temporary and tied to the current COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE).

If a County Assistance Office (CAO) is notified that a 21 year old individual has returned to foster care due to the Consolidated Appropriates Act of 2021 and they are open in the Former Foster Care category (PC 40) or other MA category, then they should remain open in that category. They do not need to be transitioned to a foster care-related category (PC31, PC33). If a CY 60 is provided, facility codes should be updated on the record.

NOTE: If the individual returning to foster care is age 18 to 20, the record should be updated normally for foster care-related MA and the system will place them into the correct foster care-related category.

This policy clarification will be obsoleted at the end of the PHE.