



Promoting healthy relationships for adolescents in child welfare and juvenile justice systems

Adolescents involved in the foster care and/or the juvenile justice systems are often dealing with family disruptions, adverse childhood experiences, and uncertain futures. These youth may engage in high-risk behaviors, including risky sexual decision making, at a higher rate than other adolescent populations.

Child Welfare Professionals, Juvenile Justice Professionals, and Advocates involved in court processes are in a unique position to ensure that the adolescent's case plan provides for the youth's safety, wellbeing, and permanency. This includes reviewing the plan to make sure the adolescent has been provided with support and resources to make informed and responsible decisions to regarding sexual activity and postponing pregnancy.

Teen pregnancy has significant consequences on youth and society as a whole; teens in foster care are more than twice as likely to become unintentionally pregnant than teens who are not in foster care, according to the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER THROUGH THE REVIEW OF REPORTS AND CASE PLANS:

- Does the case plan address the promotion of healthy relationships with supportive adults in the adolescent's life? (This could include family members, foster parents, child welfare staff, and other advocates.)
- Has the adolescent been referred to a health care provider for an initial health screening, a comprehensive health assessment, and/or ongoing care?
- Has the adolescent been referred to a health professional to receive developmentally appropriate health information, including reproductive health, sexually transmitted infection prevention, and pregnancy prevention?
- Does the case plan address the safety of the adolescent through the prevention of sexual victimization targeting foster youth (including dating violence, bullying, sexual assault, survival sex, and sex trafficking)?



Questions? Please contact:

Adolescent Health Program
Women's, Children's, and Family Health
Division of Public Health
Alaska Department of Health and Social Services
Phone: 907.269.3400

For more information and resources, please visit:

The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and
Unplanned Pregnancy at:
<http://www.thenationalcampaign.org/fostercare>