

TURNING 18 CHECKLIST

School

- If this hasn't been done yet, work on creating a **Post-Secondary Vision**, or a plan for life after high school.
- Make sure the **Transition Planning Form (TPF)** has been completed. Schools should be using the TPF as well as relevant Transition Assessments to guide decisions about IEP goals and objectives during transition years.
- Explore **Age of Majority** (turning 18/becoming a legal adult) issues related to school. If you are not pursuing guardianship, decide who will make educational decisions (the student, the parent(s), or both).
- See the **Schools Fact Sheet** from the Autism Program Transition Clinic for more information about what schools should be doing regarding transition. Use this sheet to guide your conversations with the school.

Legal

- If the adolescent is male, register for the **Selective Service (the Draft)**. This is required by the government (but does not mean that the individual would actually be drafted) and failure to register can affect eligibility for services.
- Apply for a **Non-driver ID Card** if the adolescent does not have a driver's license. This will provide him/her with a convenient form of government ID.
- Decide if legal **Guardianship** makes sense for your family, or if you want to pursue a less restrictive option, such as:
 - **Health Care Proxy**: for medical decisions and communication
 - **Power of Attorney**: for legal/financial decisions
 - **Representative Payee**: for management of SSI benefits
 - **Conservatorship**: for estate decision-making and management
 - **Supported Decision-Making**: creating a support/advisory team for the individual, who retains legal rightsIf you choose one of these options, try to have it in place just before the adolescent turns 18.

Services

- Make sure the school has done a **Chapter 688 referral** for adult services. This is a referral to one service agency, which will most likely be one of the following:
 - **Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission (MRC)**: provides employment support and services; short-term.
 - **Department of Developmental Services (DDS)**: provides services in areas of employment, residential, daily living, and family support; long term.
- Independently apply to the agency not covered by the Chapter 688 referral. While the Chapter 688 referral will only cover one agency, individuals can be found eligible for both. See the **Schools Fact Sheet** for more information.
- Assist the adolescent with applying for **Supplemental Security Income (SSI)**. Make sure he/she has less than \$2000 in independent assets (e.g., money in his/her own bank account(s), savings bonds, etc.).
- Receiving SSI automatically makes an individual eligible for **MassHealth Standard (Medicaid)**. You should receive an insurance card by mail after being accepted for SSI – if not, contact MassHealth.
 - If the adolescent does not receive SSI, apply for MassHealth coverage independently, and be sure to fill out **Supplement C (Accommodation)**. Depending on the individual's income, this may be *MassHealth Standard* or *MassHealth CommonHealth*. Even if he/she has private insurance (e.g., through a parent until age 26), MassHealth can cover copays and other expenses not covered by the primary insurance.
- Apply for a **Section 8 Housing Voucher**. Even if you are not thinking about independent housing yet, the waitlist for vouchers can be up to 10 years long, so it's important to get on the list early.
- If no guardianship is in place, or if there is a family member/someone living with the adolescent who is not the guardian (e.g., if only one parent has guardianship, if there is a sibling over 18, etc.), look into eligibility for **Adult Family/Foster Care**. This program is funded through MassHealth and provides a tax-free stipend to a family member/caregiver living with an individual with a disability to help with their care. Applications and eligibility determinations are done through an AFC provider.

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TURNING 18 RESOURCES AND REFERENCES

Creating the Vision and Transition Planning Form:

- doe.mass.edu/sped/28MR/28m9.pdf
- doe.mass.edu/sped/advisories/goals-example-sheet.pdf
- fcsn.org/newsletter/2014/summer-2014/transition-vision

Age of Majority

- fcsn.org/linkcenter/wp-content/uploads/sites/25/2017/08/dese_student_ieps_brochure_web-sm.pdf
- doe.mass.edu/sped/advisories/11_1.html

Selective Service

- sss.gov/Registration/Who-Must-Register/Men-With-Disabilities
- sss.gov/Registration/How-to-Register

Non-Driver ID

- mass.gov/topics/identification-cards

Guardianship

- mass.gov/courts/selfhelp/guardians/guardianship-ip.html
- masslegalservices.org/system/files/library/vlp_guardianship_adults_brochure.pdf
- massguardianshipassociation.org/information/guardianship-of-an-adult-2

Chapter 688 Referral

- doe.mass.edu/sped/iep/688/
- doe.mass.edu/sped/28MR/28m11.pdf

DDS

- mass.gov/orgs/department-of-developmental-services
- mass.gov/dds-turning-22-services-0
- mass.gov/lists/dds-eligibility-forms

MRC

- mass.gov/eohhs/gov/departments/mrc

SSI

- socialsecurity.gov/ssi
- ssabest.benefits.gov
- socialsecurity.gov/ssi/text-apply-ussi.htm

Mass Health

- mass.gov/eohhs/consumer/insurance/masshealth-coverage-types/masshealth-coverage-types.html
- mass.gov/eohhs/docs/masshealth/membappforms/aca-1-english-mb.pdf
- mahealthconnector.org

Section 8 Housing Programs

- 18section8.org
- section8listmass.org/How_to_Apply.php
- mass.gov/hed/docs/dhcd/ph/rentalapplications/sec8app.pdf

Adult Family/Foster Care

- massafc.org/provider-list
- jfcsboston.org/Our-Services/People-with-Disabilities/Adult-Family-Care
- ne-arc.org/services/adult-family-care