



# Turning 18 Checklist



## School Checklist

- Transition Planning Form (TPF)** is complete and up to date. The **post-secondary vision** on the TPF is updated annually and reflects the adolescent's vision for their adult life.
- The school has conducted appropriate **transition assessments**. The Transition Planning Form (TPF) and transition assessments are being used to guide decisions about IEP goals and objectives.
- The adolescent is **invited to their IEP meetings** by the school (each year since age 14).
- Discussed **educational decision-making** with the school in preparation for when the adolescent becomes a legal adult at age 18. This decision is updated on the IEP.
- Graduation date** has been discussed with the school and updated on the IEP.
- Chapter 688 referral** has been placed to an adult service agency by the school and updated on the IEP. Submitted an eligibility application to this agency.
- The adolescent is receiving **Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS)** or it has been offered by school.



## School Resources



Transition Services in High School



Vision Workbook



TPF (in the IEP)



DESE Transition Information



Chapter 688 Referral



Pre-ETS

## Legal Checklist

- Male adult US citizens:** registered for the Selective Service (the draft). This is a US government requirement. Failure to register can affect benefits eligibility. Registering does not mean the individual will be drafted.
- Applied for a non-driver ID card so the adolescent has a **form of government ID** (if no driver's license).
- Decided with the adolescent if they will pursue a **decision-making support** option in one or more domains of their life e.g., legal, medical and financial decisions. Ideally put in place just before or soon after the 18th birthday. (Some options require a legal process). Examples:
  - **Health Care Proxy:** for medical decisions and communication about medical care.
  - **Power of Attorney:** for legal and financial decisions.
  - **Representative Payee:** for management of SSI benefits.
  - **Supported Decision-Making (SDM):** creating a support/advisory team for the individual.
  - **Guardianship (limited or full):** a guardian is legally appointed by court to make decisions for an individual.



## Legal Resources



Selective Service Registration



MA ID Registration



Age of Majority Guide



Health Care Proxy



Representative Payee



Supported Decision-Making



Guardianship

# Services Checklist

- Completed **eligibility applications to state agencies that provide adult services**. Individuals can be eligible for services at multiple state agencies. They can provide long-term support. The agencies provide a variety of services which can include support with employment, housing, daily living, community engagement, mental health support and more. The agencies support the following individuals:
  - **MassAbility**: for people with disabilities.
  - **Department of Developmental Services (DDS)**: for people with intellectual/developmental disabilities.
  - **Massachusetts Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (MCDHH)**: for people who are deaf and/or hard of hearing.
  - **Massachusetts Commission for the Blind (MCB)**: for people who are legally blind.
  - **Department of Mental Health (DMH)**: for people with severe and persistent mental illness.
- Applied for **Supplemental Security Income (SSI)** and/or **Social Security Disability Income (SSDI)** if eligible. If an individual received SSI as a child they need to re-apply at age 18 to continue receiving SSI.
- Looked into additional financial supports including savings accounts such as a **Special Needs Trust (SNT)** and **ABLE account**, and financial assistance such as SNAP benefits and economic assistance programs.
- Applied for **MassHealth** and filled out Supplement C (Accommodation). Depending on income this may be MassHealth Standard (Medicaid) or MassHealth CommonHealth. Receiving SSI automatically makes you eligible for MassHealth Standard and you should automatically receive an insurance card by mail.
- Applied for **Adult Family/Foster Care (AFC)** if eligible and there is a trusted adult living with and supporting the individual (who is not their legal guardian). Applied for a **Personal Care Attendant (PCA)** if the individual needs support with activities of daily living (ADLs). Both programs are funded by MassHealth.
- Explored housing options and applied for Section 8 or other **housing vouchers**, if considering independent housing in the future. (The wait list can be years long.)
- Connected to your local **Independent Living Center (ILC)** and **DDS Autism or Family Support Center** for adult services and supports.
- Looking into opportunities for skill development and support with **activities of daily living** (e.g., bathing, dressing, toileting), **independent living skills** (e.g., traveling, cooking, managing medication), **vocational skills** (e.g., interviewing, resume writing, time management etc.) and **social skills** (e.g., developing and maintaining friendships, conversational skills, handling disagreements).



## Services Resources

 DDS	 MassAbility	 DMH	 MCB	 MCDHH	 SSI/SSDI
 ABLE Account	 SNT (The Arc)	 Economic Assistance	 SNAP	 MassHealth	 AFC
 PCA	 Autism Housing Pathways	 Section 8 Housing	 ILCs	 Family Support Centers	