



FAQs: I Just Need a Little Help

MAY 6, 2015
FASFEPA/ECTAC SPRING FORUM
ROSEN CENTRE HOTEL
ORLANDO, FLORIDA

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A Quick Agenda . . .

- Welcome and Objectives
- Review of Tip Sheet for Processing Scenarios
- Scenarios in the Rounds
- Report Out
- Evaluations

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Objectives

- Homeless liaisons provide clear and consistent responses to situations to ensure compliance with the McKinney-Vento Act.
- Homeless liaisons use a step-by-step process to determine whether the situation is one that would be governed by the McKinney-Vento Act.
- Homeless liaisons feel confident in determining homeless students' eligibility for services under the McKinney-Vento Act.

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Case-by-Case: A Tip Sheet for Processing Scenarios for Homeless Liaisons

- Step 1: Take in information from the initial call or email.
- Step 2: Gather Information
- Step 3: Reflect
- Step 4: Move toward Resolution
- Step 5: Debrief for Lessons Learned

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Demonstration Scenario

Brittney’s mom is moving out of state to work. Brittney is going to live with her grandmother during this time. Would she be considered an MV student?

- Step 1: Take in information from the initial call or email.
- Step 2: Gather information
- Step 3: Reflect
- Step 4: Move toward Resolution
- Step 5: Debrief the Lessons Learned

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Practice Scenario

Amanda, one of our students has been living on her own since the age of 16. She rented a room, and now lives in an apartment. She pays her own expenses and has a full-time job. Amanda has been living in this apartment for one year. She is currently 18. She wants to apply as an independent student for FAFSA, can she?

- Step 1: Take in information from the initial call or email.
- Step 2: Gather information
- Step 3: Reflect
- Step 4: Move toward Resolution
- Step 5: Debrief the Lessons Learned

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Group Activity

- Read and Discuss Scenarios
- Follow Steps 1-5 in Handout during Discussion
- Record Responses
- Report Out to Larger Group

Scenario 1

We have a Youth Shelter in our district. Some of the students are runaways and others are unaccompanied homeless youth (they are at the shelter because they have nowhere else to go). We also have others placed there by CINS/FINS, DJJ, DCF, Truancy Court, or the court. Some of these come from out of county.

Additionally, we have students placed there because they are behavioral problems and their parents placed them there for respite. Most of them stay there for 30 days or less.

Since they all live in a shelter, are they automatically considered unaccompanied homeless youth?

Scenario 2

We have a high school student (Maria) that shared with her counselor that she is missing 1st block because she has to pay people gas money to drive her to school. Her grandmother kicked her out and she is living with her mom in the mom's boyfriend's house.

Would you consider her homeless? What about unaccompanied?

Scenario 3

We have several MV students who don't ride the bus consistently. Many times the transportation for MV students is spread out. Is it reasonable to ask parents/students to contact transportation if the child is not going to ride? If we did this, wouldn't we be required to do this for all students?

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Scenario 4

Two elementary homeless students in one family attended different schools last year because one school is for grades 3-5 (School 1) and the other is for PreK-2 (School 2) only. The daughter was in 3rd grade and attended School 1, which was the school she attended when the family became homeless. The son was in 2nd grade and attended School 2 (PreK-2 school). They were enrolled as "homeless" in February 2014, due to their living in a campground.

Although housing was found for school year 2014-2015 in another area that is not zoned for either of the two schools the children were attending, these students were re-enrolled in the homeless program at the beginning of this year. This was due to their new home's substandard housing conditions. Although their new home was out of the attendance zone for School 1 (where both are now attending), the parents did not ask for help with transportation to the school of origin. In January of 2015, both parents lost their jobs and are currently on the verge of being evicted. Their vehicle has been repossessed, so the parents have requested School of Origin transportation.

We have a great transportation department and they handle school of origin requests promptly. However, one of the transportation staff does not agree with me that this family is homeless. He went by the house to set up the route, and told me he does not believe the home is substandard. From the outside, the house looks fine, but in my discussion with this family, they indicated multiple conditions that could be considered substandard, including lack of electrical outputs, septic tank seepage, and other safety issues with the house. The landlord refuses to correct these. Is our LEA required to provide School of Origin transportation for these children?

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Scenario 5

We have an 18-year-old male (Damien) who has been identified as an unaccompanied homeless youth and he is seeking enrollment at the traditional high school to where he is temporarily residing. He has attended this school in the past. Damien is returning from a juvenile justice commitment program where he has been incarcerated for over a year. He does not have enough credits to graduate in June. The school and I have talked with him about attending one of our alternative education sites or charter schools and explained to him that he would be able to graduate this summer if he attended one of these programs (versus an additional year in the traditional setting). He does not want to attend an alternative site.

We strongly feel an alternative placement is in his best interest. If he enrolls into the traditional school at this point in time, he will not earn credit for his coursework this semester (too late in the semester). We also have concerns about his enrollment into this particular school due to criminal history, school discipline history, and possible personal motivations (girlfriend history). We also have concerns behind his intent to enroll knowing he will not earn credit for this semester.

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Scenario 6

One of our counselors is the ex-stepmother of Jason, one of our students. She believes Jason should be considered an unaccompanied homeless youth, even though he is living with her. She does not have custodial rights over the student. The ex-stepmother fears that if things get bad between them or things get too hard for her helping him out, she does not know what will happen. Jason is a temperamental teenager and she is doing her best.

When I asked her additional questions, she said that in terms of the arrangement, it's temporary, until his father can get a place to stay. The father currently rents a room from someone in Broward. The student was supposed to go every other weekend with him, but they don't have a bed, so he sleeps on the floor when he is there.

In addition his father lost his job and so did his two older brothers, who share a room with the father. Over Christmas, the student visited and witnessed a fight between his father and the homeowner's boyfriend because they were behind on the rent.

His mother left when he was six months old and lives in another country. She talks to him on social media from time to time, but does not help out at all. The ex-stepmother is not sure what to do because she is trying to help Jason graduate and go onto college. His two older brothers dropped out their senior year.

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Report Out and Discussion

- Scenario 1
- Scenario 2
- Scenario 3
- Scenario 4
- Scenario 5
- Scenario 6

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Wrap-up and Closing

- Thank you for your participation!
- Please complete the Evaluation form.

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