

# FAMILY & YOUTH ADVOCACY CENTER

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **What is the Family and Youth Advocacy Center (FYAC)?**

FYAC is a program run by the Family and Youth Law Center (FYLaw) at Capital University Law School that serves as a resource for current and former foster youth as well as youth involved in the juvenile justice, mental health, or developmental disabilities systems in Central Ohio, providing key life-planning, legal information and limited legal representation in certain areas.

### **Who does FYAC serve?**

Currently, FYAC provides services to current and former foster youth and those persons who are in or have left government systems, ages 16-25.

### **What hours is FYAC open?**

FYAC is open Monday – Friday, 8:00-5:00pm. If you need to meet with someone outside of these times, just let us know and we will set up a meeting that is convenient for everyone.

### **What types of issues can FYAC help me with?**

FYAC provides the following services:

- Help you understand legal papers
- Help with getting healthcare, public benefits, housing or insurance
- Help applying to college and accessing grants, scholarships and other financial aid
- Assistance sealing/expunging (deleting) criminal and juvenile court records
- Finding your social security card, birth certificate and other personal documents
- Help you learn to speak up for yourself in court, at school or in the community
- Help with some small claims and landlord tenant issues
- Help you access, review, understand your credit report as well as assist you with correcting any fraudulent or inaccurate information on your credit reports
- Help creating a power of attorney, living will, and/or will
- Help with other civil legal needs on a case-by-case basis

### **Are there any types of issues FYAC cannot help me with?**

Yes, we are currently unable to assist with criminal, immigration, or domestic relations legal matters. We are also unable to represent clients in law suits against state agencies.

### **What should I expect at my first meeting?**

At your first meeting with FYAC, you will meet the persons that will be working with you. The meeting will give you an opportunity to explain your issues and what you would like FYAC to help with. We will then ask you a series of questions about subjects you may need help with. You should plan for the meeting to last around 1-2 hours.

**What happens after the first meeting?**

After the first meeting, the FYAC staff and students working on your case will meet and come up with case goals and tasks. There may also be things that are expected of you as part of your FYAC representation. We will then meet with you and get your thoughts on the goals, tasks, and expectations. Together, we will all create a final plan of action that will help us achieve your case goals.

**What do I do if I do not agree with the action plan that was created?**

Let us know! We want you to be on board with the plan!

**What do I do if I have a new issue come up when FYAC is helping me with something else?**

Again, let us know! We will talk with you about your new issue to see if we can help.

**What if I have an issue that I need help with, but FYAC doesn't provide help in that area?**

We will do our best to refer you to a place that can help! Please don't hesitate to contact us.

**Is there a charge for FYAC services and/or representation?**

No! All FYAC services are free of charge. If there are court filing or other fees that cannot be waived, we may ask you to pay those fees, if possible. We will work with you to try to find outside financial assistance when appropriate.

**Is there attorney-client privilege (confidentiality) between FYAC staff and clients?**

Absolutely! From our first contact with you through the closing of your FYAC case, everything you share with FYAC staff is protected under attorney-client privilege. This means that FYAC staff cannot be forced to reveal anything you tell us except under very limited circumstances. We will discuss attorney client privilege in more detail at your initial intake appointment.