

## What is the Extended Care (V-9) Agreement?

### The Extended Care (V-9) Agreement

A V-9 is a voluntary agreement between you and the Department that allows you to stay in DHHS care and receive supportive services past your 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Generally, this agreement is created to help young people continue with education for to help care for youth with extreme health issues.

Being in the care of DHHS through a V-9 does not mean that you stay in the custody of DHHS. It does mean that you may continue to get services or financial support up to your 21<sup>st</sup> birthday.

One agreement can look very different from another. It is a negotiation between you and DHHS for things like how much financial support DHHS will provide, how much financial support you will provide, where you will live, your education/training goals, and your overall plan.

You may choose to sign the V-9 contract *before* your 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.

**If you have a plan, it is possible to get a V-9 reopened after it has been closed.**

**Ask your caseworker or a transition worker for more information.**

So, you will need to talk with your caseworker *before* your 18<sup>th</sup> birthday about signing the V-9 agreement. If you do not sign a V-9, your DHHS case will be closed on your 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.

A V-9 is a very individual agreement between you and your caseworker. A V-9 is a completely voluntary program and can be ended by you or by DHHS at any time.

If your V-9 Agreement ends, you can request to reopen and negotiate a new V-9 Agreement anytime, up to age 21.

**“Trust someone. You have to start somewhere.”**

Muriel G., age 17

**Ask your caseworker for more information.**

