



State of Florida
Department of Children and Families

Charlie Crist
Governor

Robert A. Butterworth
Secretary

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

To: State University, Community College or Postsecondary Career and Technical Program
From: Eckerd Community Alternatives, Department of Children and Families or Community Base Care Agency
Title: Independent Living Specialist
Subject: Undergraduate and Career and Technical Program Tuition and Fee Exemption for Students Receiving or Formerly Receiving Services from the Department of Children and Families

This is to certify that: \_\_\_\_\_, SS #: \_\_\_\_\_, qualifies for an educational tuition and fee exemption pursuant to the "Florida K-20 Education Code", Section 1009.25(2)(c), Florida Statutes, due to one of the following conditions (check one):

- Is or was at the time he or she reached age 18 in the custody of the Department of Children of Children and Families
Was adopted from the department after May 5, 1997
Is or was at the time of reaching age 18 in the custody of a relative under s. 39.5085, F.S.
Was placed in a guardianship by the court after reaching age 16 and spending at least 6 months in the custody of the department

Per s. 1009.25 (2)(c), F.S., "A student who is or was at the time he or she reached 18 years of age in the custody of the Department of Children and Family Services or a relative under s. 39.5085, F.S., who is adopted from the Department of Children and Family Services after May 5, 1997, or who, after spending at least 6 months in the custody of the department after reaching 16 years of age, was placed in a guardianship by the court. Such exemption includes fees associated with enrollment in career-preparatory instruction and completion of the college-level communication and computation skills testing program. Such an exemption is available to any student who was in the custody of a relative under s. 39.5085, F.S., at the time he or she reached 18 years of age or was adopted from the Department of Children and Family Services after May 5, 1997; however, the exemption remains valid for no more than 4 years after the date of graduation from high school."

The above language reflects a restriction on the number of years that the exemption remains valid after high school graduation for students who were adopted after May 5, 1997 or were in relative custody under s. 39.5085, F.S. However, no restriction is provided for students who are in the custody of the department or who were in the custody of the department on their 18th birthday or those placed in guardianship after reaching age 16.

Date of Student's High School Graduation (if applicable): Not Applicable

Please contact: Karen Chouinard or a member of the Independent Living Department, Florida Department of Children and Families or Community Based Care Agency at 727-456-0600 ext: 2188 for additional information.

School official (if applicable)

School official (if applicable)

1317 Winewood Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0700