



SchoolHouse
Connection

October 12,
2022

The Ins and Outs of Unaccompanied Homeless Youth



Scenario 1

[Part 1]

A 15-year old student has moved in with her boyfriend's family. She shares her boyfriend's room and is trying to enroll in her boyfriend's high school. Her parents say they want her to come home and do not want her to enroll in her boyfriend's school. The student says she can't return to that home.

The principal of her boyfriend's school says she cannot enroll there and needs to go home.

What do you have up your sleeve?

Scenario 1 [Part 2]

Upon further investigation, it turns out the student's "parents" actually are just the sponsors she was placed with by the Office of Refugee Resettlement after she arrived in the US alone from Guatemala in the spring. The sponsors are angry that she has left their home. They have been getting SNAP benefits for her.

The student would like to transfer her SNAP benefits to the family she's living with now, but was told she could not make a change until next year.

What do you have up your sleeve?

Scenario 1

[Part 3]

The student is looking for an attorney to help with her SNAP case and also to process a U Visa application for her, based on physical abuse and forced labor she suffered at her sponsor's home.

Potential attorneys have asked the McKinney-Vento liaison for school records showing the student's attendance and verifying that the student is an unaccompanied homeless youth. The liaison is not sure if FERPA allows her share that information with a third party.

What do you have up your sleeve?

Scenario 2 [Part 1]

A 17-year old senior girl's parents kicked her out of the house when they found out she's pregnant. She's couch-surfing with friends, but has nowhere to go after the baby is born.

With all the family drama and constant moving, she's missed 15 days of school already this semester and is at risk of not earning credits.

What do you have up your sleeve?

Scenario 2 [Part 2]

A 17-year old senior girl's parents kicked her out of the house when they found out she's pregnant. She's couch-surfing with friends, but has nowhere to go after the baby is born.

There's a teen parent program in the district that would serve this student's needs perfectly, but it's at a high school outside the attendance area where the student is staying. Can she enroll?

What do you have up your sleeve?

Scenario 2 [Part 3]

A 17-year old senior girl's parents kicked her out of the house when they found out she's pregnant. She's couch-surfing with friends, but has nowhere to go after the baby is born.

The student's parents have her ID and birth certificate but will not give them to her. She wants the documents to apply for a maternity housing program.

What do you have up your sleeve?

Scenario 2 [Part 4]

A 17-year old senior girl's parents kicked her out of the house when they found out she's pregnant. She's couch-surfing with friends, but has nowhere to go after the baby is born.

The student completed her FAFSA as an independent student, due to her being an unaccompanied homeless youth. However, now the college of her choice is demanding "proof" that she is homeless and unaccompanied. The Financial Aid Administrator says a letter from the McKinney-Vento liaison is not enough.

What do you have up your sleeve?

Scenario 3

[Part 1]

A student just disclosed to you that the student identifies as LGBTQ+ and is going through some serious family conflicts and bullying since coming out.

What should you say?

What should you not say?

What should you ask?

What should you not ask?

What resources should you offer?

Scenario 3 [Part 2]

The student decided to come out to his parents. They kicked him out of the house. He is staying temporarily with a friend's family just outside his school district boundaries. His parents told his school of origin they do not want him participating in any activities. The state activity association also says he can't play if he's living outside the district.

He's starring in the school play and on the baseball team at his school of origin. He desperately wants to continue in his activities.

What do you have up your sleeve?

Scenario 3 [Part 3]

Everyone is clear now about the rights of unaccompanied homeless youth in school. However, there still is some confusion about how the student can get the physical he needs to play sports.

His parents are refusing to sign for him to get a physical.

What do you have up your sleeve?



Questions?

Thank you!



- Our website: <https://schoolhouseconnection.org>
- Sign up for our newsletter: <https://schoolhouseconnection.org/sign-up>
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SchoolHouseConnection>
- Facebook Group:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/SchoolHouseConnection/>
- Twitter: <https://twitter.com/SchoolHouseConn>
- Medium: <https://medium.com/@SchoolHouseConnection>
- Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/SchoolHouseConnection>