## Facts

Youth in the foster system struggle with transitioning into young adulthood (Rome & Raskin, 2019).

Exiting foster care without strong connections to community places, education, employment opportunities, and family puts young adults at higher risk for negative outcomes.

## Forensic Implications

There is a link between out of home care and child maltreatment, and juvenile delinquency and adult crime. Juvenile delinquency, gender, and placement instability while in care increase odds of having later criminal involvement and felony adjudication (Crawford et al, 2019).

## Negative Outcomes

- School dropout
- Substance abuse
- Mental health problems
- Poverty
- Unemployment
- Unplanned pregnancy
- Maladaptive Behavior
- Unhealthy Relationships
- Emotional Strain and Dysregulation
- Crime (Crawford et al., 2018)

## Concerns

In some states, youth can stay in foster care past the age of 21. However, many youth choose not to stay in foster care after the age of 18. This leaves them unprepared for living independently.

The population of youth transitioning out of care exceeds the funding and services available, and state eligibility requirements vary from state to state (Stott, 2013).

Funding has increased for providing services to youth aging out of foster care, but positive outcomes are not increasing (Stott, 2013).

## Suggestions

Develop and improve effective treatment programming and policies.

Teach independent living skills at an early age.

Expand services to youth in need.

Connect youth with key community, individual, and family supports.