



Texas Department of
Family and Protective Services
Child Protective Services

How Extended Court Jurisdiction (ECJ) works:

When a youth turns 18, CPS conservatorship is dismissed. The youth can choose to either remain in Extended Foster Care, known as EFC, or can exit DFPS care to live independently, which is known as Trial Independence, or TI.

Path 1: Extended Foster Care (EFC)

If the youth stays in EFC he may or may not be receiving TLS. In EFC a court review hearing is held every 6 months. A youth can exit EFC for TI at any time prior to age 21. The court's extended jurisdiction ends at age 21 for those who remain in EFC.

Path 2: Trial Independence (TI)

If at age 18 the youth decides to not stay in EFC, he exits to TI which automatically extends up to 6 months; however, a court order can extend the TI up to 12 months. The youth can choose to return to EFC during the TI period or at any time before age 21. During TI, he may or may not use TLS.

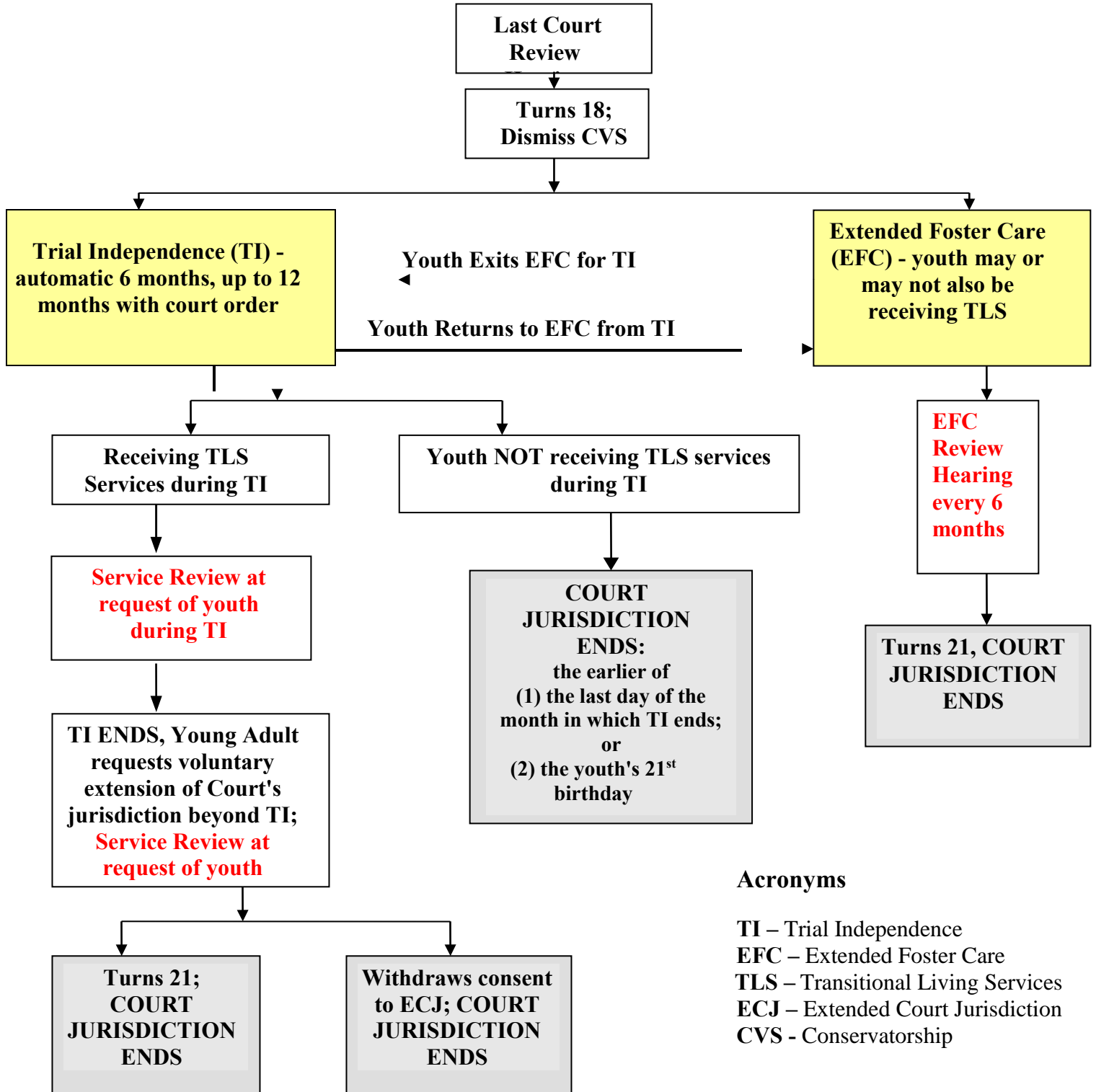
Path 2: Trial Independence (TI) without Transitional Living Services (TLS)

If the youth does not receive TLS, the court's jurisdiction ends when the youth's TI period ends or the youth's 21st birthday, whichever is earlier.

Path 2: Trial Independence (TI) with Transitional Living Services (TLS)

If the youth receives TLS during TI, the youth can request service reviews. When the youth's TI ends, the youth can request a voluntary extension of the court's jurisdiction beyond the TI period. If the court extends jurisdiction, the youth can also request service reviews during this time period as well. The court's jurisdiction ends when the youth turns 21, or before, if the youth withdraws consent to the court's extended jurisdiction.

EXTENDED COURT JURISDICTION FLOW CHART



Acronyms

TI – Trial Independence
EFC – Extended Foster Care
TLS – Transitional Living Services
ECJ – Extended Court Jurisdiction
CVS - Conservatorship