

# KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

## Supervised Independent Living Placement

### What is a SILP?

A SILP is a placement that you find. You decide where you live and who you live with. There is no caregiver, but it still has to be approved.

### Who are SILPs for?

The SILP is designed for young adults (ages 18 to 21) who are ready to live on their own with limited financial and emotional support. Good candidates for a SILP should be able to:

- 🏠 Pay all their own bills and manage their own money
- 🏠 Find a safe, secure place to live
- 🏠 Be ready to live independently

### How do I choose a SILP?

A lot of places can be SILPs: houses/apartments, dorms, rooms for rent, living with a relative or close friend. When you are deciding, you should consider:

- 🏠 Can you afford the housing? You don't want to have to move often, or get evicted.
- 🏠 Is the housing safe?
- 🏠 Talk to people you trust about the pros/cons of your options.

\*Note: Living with your biological parents is not allowed as a SILP.

### How do I get a SILP approved?

Once you find a place you want to live, there is a two step process:

#### 1) SILP readiness assessment

You and your Social Worker (SW) or Probation Officer (PO) must complete a readiness assessment to review your strengths and weaknesses in the areas of money management, personal health and safety, and tenant rights and responsibilities.

#### 2) SILP inspection

Once the readiness assessment is done and the SW or PO has decided you are "SILP ready," your proposed living situation must pass a physical safety inspection. You should be present for the inspection. Work with your SW or PO to get the inspection done promptly so your payments can start!

### How and when do I get my first SILP payment?

You will not get a SILP payment (\$\$) until your housing is inspected and approved. You will get your first SILP payment on the 15th of the month after the SILP was approved (the first check may be for less money because it may be only for part of a month).

\*Tip: Find out what documents you need to sign, and when, BEFORE you move into the SILP in order to get your SILP money on time each month. Each county has its own system for SILP payments. It is important you talk to your SW or PO and find out the process for receiving your SILP payment.

### What can I use my SILP payment for?

This check helps cover your living expenses, including food, rent, utilities, etc., but it's generally not enough money to pay for all expenses. To be successful in a SILP, you may also need a part-time job and/or financial aid. \*Note: If you are working and/or receiving financial aid, your SILP payment will not be affected if you document that income in your Transitional Independent Living Plan (TILP). For example, your TILP should have a goal that states you will "supplement your foster care money with a part-time job."



## Heads Up

Expect your first SILP payment to take 4 to 6 weeks to arrive. If sharing rent or renting a room, make sure your part of the rent is fair so you have money for food and other expenses.

- 🏠 Consider buying used furniture and appliances.
- 🏠 Most rentals require deposits or first and last month's rent before you move in.
- 🏠 Consider the cost of utilities when creating your monthly budget. Utilities companies may require small deposits.
- 🏠 Dorms or other on campus housing is automatically approved as a SILP. No Readiness Assessment or Physical Approval is needed.
- 🏠 If you are considering moving to another county or state, talk to your SW/PO and attorney before you make the move.
- 🏠 Keep your address current with your SW/PO so that you get your SILP payments.

## Rights & Responsibilities

### Right to Privacy

SWs and POs will respect your right to confidentiality as much as possible, but they still must follow certain rules. They may have to wear their county ID when they come to inspect your living situation.

### Right to challenge a SILP denial

Make sure you understand the reason you are being denied, and request a written explanation. Your SW or PO should explain the Extended Foster Care Grievance Review Process. You also have a right to bring the issue up in court. It's important to talk to your attorney. You can also call the foster care ombudsman at (877) 846-1602.

### Responsibilities

- 🏠 Communicating with your SW or PO about moving, travel, problems with roommates/landlords.
- 🏠 Paying your monthly expenses (food, utilities, transportation, etc.) and rental deposits
- 🏠 Allowing an annual health and safety inspection

## Conflicts & Concerns

### What do I do if my SW/PO says I am not ready for a SILP?

Work with your SW/PO to create goals on your TILP that will get you ready. You can also call your attorney to decide if you want to bring the issue up in court and have the Judge make the decision.

### What should I do if I don't get my SILP payment?

Call your SW or PO immediately. There may be a problem with the paperwork.

### What happens if I move?

Tell your SW or PO right away if you are planning on moving. Work with your SW/PO to get the new SILP approved before moving in. If you have to move suddenly, you are allowed to live in an unapproved SILP temporarily, but your new SILP will need to be inspected within 10 calendar days. If you're away from your placement for 14 days without talking to your SW or PO, you may not get your SILP payment.

### Is there any other financial support available to me in a SILP?

You may be able to qualify for CalFresh (formerly Food Stamps), but ask for help with the application process. If you are a parent, you may also qualify for additional money to take care of your baby. If you're receiving SILP payments, you do not qualify for CalWorks.

For more information, visit [kids-alliance.org](http://kids-alliance.org) or [clccal.org](http://clccal.org).

