



Certified Homeless Youth Eligibility Certification for the Purposes of Obtaining a Florida Birth Certificate

Re: _____
(Name of Youth) Please type or print clearly

Date of Birth: _____ City or County of Birth: _____

Current Mailing Address of Child or Youth (if none, please list name, phone number, and mailing address of current contact):

(Address) (City) (State) (Zip) (Telephone)

Per Section 382.002(3), Florida Statutes, I am authorized to certify this child's or youth's living situation and am providing this form of certification as a (check one):

- A McKinney-Vento School District Homeless Liaison *(Attach copy of school or other ID of child or youth, if available)*
- A director or designee of a HUD-funded shelter *(Attach copy of ID of child or youth, if available)*
- A director or designee of a RHYA-funded shelter *(Attach copy of ID of child or youth, if available)*

I hereby certify that the above-named child or youth:

- is a minor who is a homeless child or youth, including an unaccompanied youth, as those terms are defined in 42 U.S.C. s. 11434a of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act of 2001.

This form is to confirm that the above-named child or youth is attending school in the state of _____ for School Year _____.

Should you have additional questions or need more information about this child or youth, please contact me at the number or e-mail listed below.

Any person who willfully and knowingly provides any false information on a certificate, record or report required by Chapter 382, Florida Statutes, or on any application or affidavit, or who obtains confidential information from any Vital Record under false or fraudulent purposes, commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in Chapter 775, Florida Statutes.

Signature of Certified Child or Youth	Date Signed
Authorized Signature of Person Certifying Youth	Date Signed
Print Name of Person Certifying Youth	Telephone Number/E-mail Address
Title of Person Certifying Youth	Name of School District and State or Shelter and State Certifying Child or Youth

In addition to this Certification, applicant MUST provide a completed and signed Application for Florida Birth Record, DH Form 726 and the statutory mandated fee. To print the DH Form 726 application, ~ Visit our website at: www.FloridaVitalStatisticsOnline.com

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
OFFICE OF VITAL STATISTICS
ATTN: VITAL RECORDS SECTION
P.O. BOX 210,
Jacksonville, FL 32231-0042
(Street Address: 1217 North Pearl Street, Jacksonville, Florida 32202)**

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT UNACCOMPANIED/HOMELESS YOUTH

Who are Unaccompanied Homeless Youth? Unaccompanied homeless youth are young people who lack safe, stable housing and who are not in the care of a parent or guardian. They may have run away from home or been forced to leave by their parents. Unaccompanied youth live in a variety of temporary situations, including shelters, the homes of friends or relatives, cars, campgrounds, public parks, abandoned buildings, motels, and bus or train stations.

Between 1.6 and 1.7 million youth run away from their homes each year.ⁱ Generally, youth leave home due to severe dysfunction in their families, including circumstances that put their safety and well-being at risk. Unfortunately, physical and sexual abuse in the home is common; studies of unaccompanied youth have found that 20 to 50% were sexually abused in their homes, while 40 to 60% were physically abused.ⁱⁱ Unaccompanied youth do not receive financial support from their parents and do not have access to parental information.

Who are McKinney-Vento School District Liaisons? Under subtitle VII-B of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act of 2001, every school district is required to designate a liaison for students experiencing homelessness. Homeless liaisons have a number of legal responsibilities under the Act, including identifying youth who meet the definition of homeless and are unaccompanied. The education subtitle of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act of 2001 is overseen by the U.S. Department of Education. For more information, see:
<http://www.ed.gov/programs/homeless/legislation.html>.

What are HUD-funded Shelters? The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) administers funding for homeless shelters and services under Title IV of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act of 2001. These funds are distributed to communities through a competitive grant process. For more information, see:
<http://www.hud.gov/offices/cpd/homeless/programs/index.cfm>.

What are RHYA-funded Shelters? The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services administers the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act programs. These programs provide funding for Basic Centers, Transitional Living Programs, and Street Outreach Programs that serve runaway and other unaccompanied homeless youth. For more information, see:
<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/fysb/content/programs/bcp.htm>.

ⁱ Hammer, H., Finkelhor, D., & Sedlak, A. (2002). "Runaway / Throwaway Children: National Estimates and Characteristics." *National Incidence Studies of Missing, Abducted, Runaway, and Throwaway Children*. Washington DC: Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. See also Greene, J. (1995). "Youth with Runaway, Throwaway, and Homeless Experiences: Prevalence, Drug Use, and Other At-Risk Behaviors." *Research Triangle Institute*. Washington DC: U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services; National Runaway Switchboard, <http://www.1800runaway.org/>.

ⁱⁱ Robertson, M. & Toro, P. (1999). "Homeless Youth: Research, Intervention, and Policy." *Practical Lessons: The 1998 National Symposium on Homelessness Research*. Washington DC: U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development. Retrieved July 18, 2007 from <http://aspe.os.dhhs.gov/progsys/homeless/symposium/3-Youth.htm>. See also MacLean, M.G., Embry, L.E. & Cauce, A.M. (1999). "Homeless Adolescents' Paths to Separation from Family: Comparison of Family Characteristics, Psychological Adjustment, and Victimization." *Journal of Community Psychology*, 27(2), 179-187.