



### Unaccompanied/Homeless Youth Certification For the Purposes of Accessing a Florida Birth Certificate

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

DOB: \_\_\_\_\_ City or County of birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Current Mailing Address of 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 youth's living situation and am providing this form of certification as a (check one):

\_\_\_\_ A McKinney-Vento School District Homeless Liaison  
This form is to confirm that the above named youth attended school in the state of \_\_\_\_\_  
for School Year \_\_\_\_\_. (Attach copy of school ID of youth, if available)

\_\_\_\_ A director or designee of a HUD-funded shelter (Attach copy of ID of youth, if available)

\_\_\_\_ A director or designee of a RHYA-funded shelter (Attach copy of ID of youth, if available)

I also hereby certify that the above named youth (check one):

\_\_\_\_ WAS AN UNACCOMPANIED HOMELESS YOUTH AFTER JULY 1, 2012

This means that, after July 1, 2012, the above named youth was living in a homeless situation, as defined by Section 725 of the McKinney-Vento Act, and was not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian.

Should you have additional questions or need more information about this youth, please contact me at the number listed in the box 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 Youth		Date signed
Authorized Signature of Person Certifying Youth		Date signed
Print Name of Person Certifying Youth		Telephone Number
Title of Person Certifying Youth	Name of School <u>District and State</u> or Shelter and State Certifying	

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 application, ~ Visit our website at: [www.floridavitalstatistics.com](http://www.floridavitalstatistics.com)

**Bureau of Vital Statistics, PO Box 210, Jacksonville, FL 32231-0042  
Telephone: 904-359-6900**

## 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.<sup>i</sup> 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.<sup>ii</sup> 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, 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 Act 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 Act. 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>.

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<sup>i</sup> Hammer, H., Finkelhor, D., & Sedlak, A. (2002). "Runaway / Thrownaway Children: National Estimates and Characteristics." *National Incidence Studies of Missing, Abducted, Runaway, and Thrownaway Children*. Washington DC: Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. See also Greene, J. (1995). "Youth with Runaway, Thrownaway, 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/>.

<sup>ii</sup> 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.