

Preparing Adolescents for Adulthood Timeline

√	AGE	ACTIVITY	STATUTE/BEST PRACTICE	RESOURCE
	14-21	Minnesota Youth in Transition Database (MNYTD)	<p>Purpose: Track outcomes for independent living services provided to youth in foster care, to assess the outcomes of youth who age out of foster care, and to provide states with data to enable better foster youth policy decisions overall.</p> <p>Agency Requirements: When agency staff becomes aware that a youth on their caseload turns age 17 (or was in placement within 45 days of turning 17), they are to do the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review with youth the Notice of Privacy Practices (DHS-6235B) • Complete with youth the 22-item survey and MNYTD contact sheet • Enter into SSIS any independent living services provided to transitional youth. 	<p>SSIS: MNYTD Services, Survey, Contact screens by going to the Person screen Action menu for a youth who is receiving adolescent services.</p> <p>Bulletin: Guidance and training on agency responsibilities for the National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD), #10-68-10</p>
	16	Complete a life skill assessment	<p>Individualized planning must be guided by a comprehensive assessment of each youth's needs.</p> <p>The Minnesota Department of Human Services recommends the Ansell-Casey Life Skills Assessment (ACLSA) full-length assessment tool as a method of assessing the independent living needs of youth and determining independent living plan goals. Review the assessment results with youth and foster parents/caregivers to highlight the strengths, areas of challenges and difference between the youth and foster parent/caregiver completing the assessment and the areas of identified need the youth wants to pursue.</p> <p>Another assessment tool is the Youth Self-Assessment: 103 Questions to Find Out Just How Ready You Really Are to Go Out on Your Own.</p>	<p>The tools are on the website: www.caseylifeskills.org</p>
	16/older with a	Complete an Independent	The ILP combines the objectives in 260C.212, Subd 1 and the goals in Subd 7:	Best Practice Guide: Helping Youth Transition

<p>permanency disposition of LTFC or state ward</p>	<p>Living Plan (ILP)</p>	<p>Minnesota Statute, section 260C.212, Subd. 1 (c) (11) ILP: Required for a child age 16 or older who is in placement as a result of a permanency disposition. The plan should include, but not be limited to, the following objectives: <i>educational, vocational, or employment planning; health care planning and medical coverage; transportation including, where appropriate, assisting the child in obtaining a driver's license; money management, planning for housing; social and recreational skills; and establishing and maintaining connections with the child's family and community.</i></p> <p>Minnesota Statute, section 260C.212, Subd. 7 (d) (2) Review progress of goals (2) Consistent with the requirements of the independent living plan, the court shall review progress toward or accomplishment of the following goals: <i>obtained a high school diploma or its equivalent; completed a driver's education course or has demonstrated the ability to use public transportation in the child's community; employed or enrolled in postsecondary education; applied for and obtained postsecondary education financial aid for which the child is eligible; health care coverage and health care providers to meet the child's physical and mental health needs; applied for and obtained disability income assistance for which the child is eligible; obtained affordable housing with necessary supports, which does not include a homeless shelter; saved sufficient funds to pay for the first month's rent and a damage deposit; an alternative affordable housing plan, which does not include a homeless shelter, if the original housing plan is unworkable; if male, has registered for the Selective Service; and has a permanent connection to a caring adult.</i></p> <p>Best Practice: The Department of Human Services recommends that an ILP be developed on all youth age 16 and older.</p> <p>The ILP is being revised to include under the money management objective the following: It is the responsibility of the agency to ensure that youth annually receives, at no cost to the youth, a consumer report as defined under Minnesota Statutes, section 13C.001 and assistance in interpreting and resolving any inaccuracies in the report.</p>	<p>from Out-of-Home Care to Adulthood. See the practice recommendations for completing the ILP objectives/goals.</p>
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	16/older: Annually	Credit Report	Federal law requires that the agency shall ensure that the youth receives annually at no cost to the youth, a copy of the youth's consumer credit report as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 13C.001 and assistance in interpreting and resolving any inaccuracies in the report. If this has been done within the previous twelve month period it is not necessary to do it again before the youth is discharged from foster care.	Bulletin: Enhanced Educational Stability and Consumer Credit Reports for Youth in Foster Care, #12-68-01
	16/older	Teaching life skills	The youth, social worker, and foster parent/caregiver should review the ACLSA results and other assessments to determine the best method for teaching life skills based on the youth's needs, learning style, developmental level, and cultural appropriateness. Arrange or refer to the appropriate program. Best Practice Guide: Foster parents/caregivers should be involved in helping youth learn the skills they need to complete their Independent Living Plan by teaching them in the home and community.	Best Practice Guide: Helping Youth Transition from Out-of-Home Care to Adulthood.
	Through foster care placement	Develop a support network and permanent connections	Minnesota Statute, section 260C.212, Subd. 1 (c) (11) establishing and maintaining connections with the child's family and community and section 260C.212, Subd. 7 (d) (2) has a permanent connection to a caring adult. The Minnesota Child Welfare Practice Model states: Youth need and have the right to lifelong nurturing and secure relationships that are provided by families who can meet their specific needs. Efforts to identify and secure permanency for youth should be continuous and integrated into all stages of involvement with youth.	Permanency Pact is a tool to identify adults who will continue to provide supports up to/beyond the transition from care. FosterClub website: www.fosterclub.com/files/PermanencyPact_0.pdf
	16/older: Annually	Planning for post-secondary school	Review the preparation timeline for post-secondary schools/programs.	ETV website: Click on the timeline link.
	16/older	Administrative or court review of the ILP	Minnesota Statute, section, 260C.212, Subd. 7 (a) There shall be an administrative review of the out-of-home placement plan of each child placed in foster care no later than 180 days after the initial placement of the child in foster care and at least every six months thereafter if the child is not returned to the home	

		<p>of the parent or parents within that time. The out-of-home placement plan must be monitored and updated at each administrative review. The administrative review shall be conducted by the responsible social services agency using a panel of appropriate persons at least one of whom is not responsible for the case management of, or the delivery of services to, either the child or the parents who are the subject of the review. The administrative review shall be open to participation by the parent or guardian of the child and the child, as appropriate.</p> <p>(b) As an alternative to the administrative review required in paragraph (a), the court may, as part of any hearing required under the Minnesota Rules of Juvenile Protection Procedure, conduct a hearing to monitor and update the out-of-home placement plan pursuant to the procedure and standard in section 260C.201, subdivision 6, paragraph (d). The party requesting review of the out-of-home placement plan shall give parties to the proceeding notice of the request to review and update the out-of-home placement plan. A court review conducted pursuant to section 260C.193; 260C.201, subdivision 1 or 11; 260C.141, subdivision 2; 260C.317; or 260D.06 shall satisfy the requirement for the review so long as the other requirements of this section are met.</p> <p>(d) Administrative or court review of placements: When a child is age 16 or older, in addition to any administrative review conducted by the agency, at the in-court review required under section 260C.201, subdivision 11, or 260C.317, subdivision 3, clause (3), the court shall review the independent living plan required under subdivision 1, paragraph (c), clause (11), and the provision of services to the child related to the well-being of the child as the child prepares to leave foster care. The review shall include the actual plans related to each item in the plan necessary to the child's future safety and well-being when the child is no longer in foster care.</p> <p>(1) At the court review, the responsible social services agency shall establish that it has given the notice required under section 260C.456 or Minnesota Rules, part 9560.0660, regarding the right to continued access to services for certain children in foster care past age 18 and of the right to appeal a denial of social services under section 256.045. If the agency is unable to establish that the notice, including the right to appeal a denial of social services, has</p>	
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			<p>been given, the court shall require the agency to give it.</p> <p>(2) Consistent with the requirements of the independent living plan, the court shall review progress toward or accomplishment of the following goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) the child has obtained a high school diploma or its equivalent; (ii) the child has completed a driver's education course or has demonstrated the ability to use public transportation in the child's community; (iii) the child is employed or enrolled in postsecondary education; (iv) the child has applied for and obtained postsecondary education financial aid for which the child is eligible; (v) the child has health care coverage and health care providers to meet the child's physical and mental health needs; (vi) the child has applied for and obtained disability income assistance for which the child is eligible; (vii) the child has obtained affordable housing with necessary supports, which does not include a homeless shelter; (viii) the child has saved sufficient funds to pay for the first month's rent and a damage deposit; (ix) the child has an alternative affordable housing plan, which does not include a homeless shelter, if the original housing plan is unworkable; (x) the child, if male, has registered for the Selective Service; and (xi) the child has a permanent connection to a caring adult. 	
	16/older	Court to consult with youth during the hearing	Minnesota Statute, section, 260C.163, Subd. 1 (e) Consult with child during the hearing In any permanency hearing, including the transition of a child from foster care to independent living, the court shall ensure that it consult with the child during the hearing is in an age-appropriate manner.	
	16/older	Youth's right to participate in proceedings	Minnesota Statute, section, 260C.163, Subd. 2 Right to participate in proceedings: A child who is the subject of a petition, and the parents, guardian, or legal custodian of the child have the right to participate in all proceedings on a petition, including the opportunity to personally attend all hearings. Official tribal representatives have the right to participate in any proceeding that is subject to the	

			Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978, United States Code, title 25, sections 1901 to 1963.	
	16-21	Monthly social worker visits	<p>Minnesota Statute, section, 260C.212, Subd. 4a Monthly Caseworker Visits (a) Every child in foster care or on a trial home visit shall be visited by the child's caseworker or another person who has responsibility for visitation of the child on a monthly basis, with the majority of visits occurring in the child's residence. For the purposes of this section, the following definitions apply: (1) "visit" is defined as a face-to-face contact between a child and the child's caseworker; (2) "visited on a monthly basis" is defined as at least one visit per calendar month; (3) "the child's caseworker" is defined as the person who has responsibility for managing the child's foster care placement case as assigned by the responsible social service agency; and (4) "the child's residence" is defined as the home where the child is residing, and can include the foster home, child care institution, or the home from which the child was removed if the child is on a trial home visit.(b) Caseworker visits shall be of sufficient substance and duration to address issues pertinent to case planning and service delivery to ensure the safety, permanency, and well-being of the child, including whether the child is enrolled and attending school as required by law.</p>	
	16-21: Prior to discharge from foster care	Vital documents	<p>Minnesota Statute, section, 260C.212, Subd. 7 (d) (3) Documents: The court shall ensure that the responsible agency in conjunction with the placement provider assists the child in obtaining the following documents prior to the child's leaving foster care: <i>a Social Security card; the child's birth certificate; a state identification card or driver's license, green card, or school visa; the child's school, medical, and dental records; a contact list of the child's medical, dental, and mental health providers; and contact information for the child's siblings, if the siblings are in foster care.</i></p> <p>Minnesota Statute, section, 260C.212, Subd. 4 (e) Child's Social and Medical History: Whether under state guardianship or not, if a child leaves foster care by reason of having attained the age of majority under state law, the child must be given at no cost a copy of the child's social and medical history, as defined in section 259.43 and education report.</p>	Social history form: SSIS 68 to collect the family medical history (source: LTFC Best Practice Guide).

			Minnesota Statute, section, Section 259.43 Child's social and medical history Applicable background and health information about the child includes: the child's current health condition, behavior, and demeanor; placement history; education history; sibling information; and birth, medical, dental, and immunization information. Redacted copies of pertinent records, assessments, and evaluations shall be attached to the child's social and medical history.	
17 or as often as needed	Reassess life skills	Youth can be assessed as often as appropriate for their situation. The Minnesota Department of Human Services recommends that youth complete the Ansell-Casey Life Skills Assessment (ACLSA) ACLSA again at age 17 to determine their progress and additional needs and skills. Use the information when reviewing/updating the ILP. Another assessment tool is the Youth Self-Assessment: 103 Questions to Find Out Just How Ready You Really Are to Go Out on Your Own.	Tools are on the website: www.caseylifeskills.org	
17/older: Annually	Credit Report	Federal law requires that the agency shall ensure that the youth receives annually at no cost to the youth, a copy of the youth's consumer credit report as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 13C.001 and assistance in interpreting and resolving any inaccuracies in the report. If this has been done within the previous twelve month period it is not necessary to do it again before the youth is discharged from foster care.	Bulletin: Enhanced Educational Stability and Consumer Credit Reports for Youth in Foster Care, #12-68-01	
17: Within 45 days after 17th birthday	MNYTD survey	Minnesota Youth in Transition Database (MNYTD) survey: When agency staff becomes aware that a youth on their caseload turns age 17 (or was in placement within 45 days of turning 17), they are to complete the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notice of Privacy Practices (SSIS/e-Docs form DHS-6235B) • 22-item survey and MNYTD contact sheet. 	Bulletin: Guidance and training on agency responsibilities for the National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD), #10-68-10	
17 ½	Independent Living Plan	Review and update every 6 months.		
17 ½	Notice of	Minnesota Statute, section, 260C.451 Foster Care Benefits to Age 21, Subd. 1	Bulletin: Fostering	

		foster care benefits	Notification of benefits: Within the six months prior to the child's 18th birthday, the local agency shall advise any child in foster care under this chapter, the child's parents or legal guardian, if any, and the child's foster parents of the availability of benefits of the foster care program up to age 21.	Connections Guidance and Changes to Foster Care for Youth Ages 18–21, # 10-68-12
	17/older: 90 days prior to discharge from foster care	90 Day Transition Plan Credit Report	Minnesota Statute, section 260C.212, Subd. 7 (e) Ninety-day plan for youth that are being discharged from care: When a child is age 17 or older, during the 90-day period immediately prior to the date the child is expected to be discharged from foster care, the responsible social services agency is required to provide the child with assistance and support in developing a transition plan that is personalized at the direction of the child. The transition plan must be as detailed as the child may elect and include specific options on housing, health insurance, education, local opportunities for mentors and continuing support services, and work force supports and employment services. The agency shall also provide the individual with appropriate contact information if the individual needs more information or needs help dealing with a crisis situation through age 21. Federal law also requires that the agency shall ensure that youth receive, at no cost to the youth, a copy of their consumer credit report as defined in Minnesota Statute, section 13C.001 and assistance in interpreting and resolving any inaccuracies in the report. If this has been done within the previous twelve month period it is not necessary to do it again before the youth is discharged from foster care.	Bulletin: Enhanced Educational Stability and Consumer Credit Reports for Youth in Foster Care, #12-68-01
	17/older: 90 days prior to discharge from foster care	Health Care Directive (part of 90 Day Transition Plan)	Minnesota Statutes, section 145C.16 Suggested Health Care Directive form: Federal law requires that information provided to the youth should include the youth's option to designate another individual to make health care treatment decision on behalf of the youth if he/she becomes unable to make these decisions and the youth does not have, or does not want, a relative who would otherwise be authorized to make such decisions on the child's behalf. In Minnesota this is known as a Health Care Directive.	
	18-21	Notification of benefits	Minnesota Statutes, section 260C.451 Foster Care Benefits to Age 21, Subd. 2: Update Independent living plan: Upon the request of any child receiving foster care benefits immediately prior to the child's 18th birthday and who is in foster care at the time of the request, the local agency shall, in conjunction with the child and	Bulletin: Fostering Connections Guidance and Changes to Foster Care for Youth Ages 18–21, #10-68-12

		<p>other appropriate parties, update the independent living plan required under section 260C.212, subdivision 1, paragraph (c), clause (11), related to the child's employment, vocational, educational, social, or maturational needs. The agency shall provide continued services and foster care for the child including those services that are necessary to implement the independent living plan.</p> <p>Best Practice: The local agency shall, in conjunction with the child and other appropriate parties, update the independent living plan required under section 260C.212, subdivision 1, paragraph (c), clause (11), related to the child's employment, vocational, educational, social, or maturational needs. The agency shall provide continued services and foster care for the child including those services that are necessary to implement the independent living plan.</p>	
18-21	State wards return to care	<p>Minnesota Statutes, section 260C.451 Foster Care Benefits to Age 21 Subd. 6 Individual plan to age 21 for state wards: Upon request of an individual between the ages of 18 and 21 who, within six months of the individual's 18th birthday, had been under the guardianship of the commissioner and who has left foster care, the responsible social services agency which had been the commissioner's agent for purposes of the guardianship shall develop with the individual a plan related to the individual's vocational, educational, social, or maturational needs. The agency shall provide foster care with maintenance and counseling benefits as required to implement the plan. The agency shall enter into a voluntary placement agreement with the individual if the plan includes foster care.</p> <p>Best Practice: The responsible social services agency which had been the commissioner's agent for purposes of the guardianship shall develop with the individual a plan related to the individual's vocational, educational, social, or maturational needs. The agency shall provide foster care with maintenance and counseling benefits as required to implement the plan. The agency shall enter into a voluntary placement agreement with the individual if the plan includes foster care.</p>	<p>Bulletin: Fostering Connections Guidance and Changes to Foster Care for Youth Ages 18–21, #10-68-12</p>
18-21	Non state wards return to care	<p>Minnesota Statutes. Section 260C.456 Foster Care Benefits Until Age 21. Return to foster care for non-state wards. Upon the request of a person, at any time, between the ages of 18 and 21 who had been receiving foster care benefits in</p>	<p>Bulletin: Fostering Connections Guidance and Changes to Foster Care for</p>

			the six consecutive months prior to the person's 18th birthday, or who was discharged while on runaway status after age 15, the local agency shall develop, in conjunction with the person and other appropriate parties, a specific plan related to that person's vocational, educational, social, or maturational needs and, to the extent funds are available, shall ensure that any foster care, housing, or counseling benefits are tied to that plan. Youth who left foster care while under state guardianship as dependent or neglected retain their ability to return to foster care for placement at any time between the ages of 18 and 21.	Youth Ages 18–21, #10-68-12
18-21	Eligibility for extended foster care	Minnesota Statutes, section 260C.451 Foster Care Benefits to Age 21 Subd. 3 Eligibility: A child already in foster care may continue in foster care past age 18. The child must meet at least one of the following conditions to be considered eligible to continue in foster care to age 21. The child must be: (1) completing secondary education or a program leading to an equivalent credential; (2) enrolled in an institution which provides postsecondary or vocational education; (3) participating in a program or activity designed to promote or remove barriers to employment; (4) employed for at least 80 hours per month; or (5) incapable of doing any of the activities described in clauses (1) to (4) due to a medical condition.	Bulletin: Fostering Connections Guidance and Changes to Foster Care for Youth Ages 18–21, #10-68-12	
18-21	Payment for extended foster care placement	Minnesota Statutes, section 260C.451 Foster Care Benefits to Age 21 Subd. 4 Foster care benefits: For children between the ages of 18 and 21, "foster care benefits" means payment for those foster care settings defined in section 260C.007, subdivision 18. Additionally, foster care benefits means payment for a supervised setting in which a child may live independently.	Bulletin: Fostering Connections Guidance and Changes to Foster Care for Youth Ages 18–21, #10-68-12	
18-21	Extended foster care placement setting	Minnesota Statutes, section 260C.451 Foster Care Benefits to Age 21 Subd. 5 Permanent decision: The particular foster care setting, including supervised settings, shall be selected based on the best interest of the child consistent with section 260C.212, subdivision 2. Supervision in approved settings must be determined by an individual determination of the child's needs by the responsible social services agency and consistent with section 260C.212, subdivision 4a. Minnesota Statutes, section 260C.212 Subd. 2 Placement decisions based on	Bulletin: Fostering Connections Guidance and Changes to Foster Care for Youth Ages 18–21, #10-68-12	

			<p>best interest of the child: (a) The policy of the state of Minnesota is to ensure that the child's best interests are met by requiring an individualized determination of the needs of the child and of how the selected placement will serve the needs of the child being placed. The authorized child-placing agency shall place a child, released by court order or by voluntary release by the parent or parents, in a family foster home selected by considering placement with relatives and important friends in the following order: (1) with an individual who is related to the child by blood, marriage, or adoption; or (2) with an individual who is an important friend with whom the child has resided or had significant contact. (b) Among the factors the agency shall consider in determining the needs of the child are the following: (1) the child's current functioning and behaviors; (2) the medical, educational, and developmental needs of the child; (3) the child's history and past experience; (4) the child's religious and cultural needs; (5) the child's connection with a community, school, and faith community; (6) the child's interests and talents; (7) the child's relationship to current caretakers, parents, siblings, and relatives; and (8) the reasonable preference of the child, if the court, or the child-placing agency in the case of a voluntary placement, deems the child to be of sufficient age to express preferences. (c) Placement of a child cannot be delayed or denied based on race, color, or national origin of the foster parent or the child. (d) Siblings should be placed together for foster care and adoption at the earliest possible time unless it is documented that a joint placement would be contrary to the safety or well-being of any of the siblings or unless it is not possible after reasonable efforts by the responsible social services agency. In cases where siblings cannot be placed together, the agency is required to provide frequent visitation or other ongoing interaction between siblings unless the agency documents that the interaction would be contrary to the safety or well-being of any of the siblings. (e) Except for emergency placement as provided for in section 245A.035, a completed background study is required under section 245C.08 before the approval of a foster placement in a related or unrelated home.</p>	
	<p>17 ½/older</p>	<p>Court review: Agency confirms giving notice</p>	<p>Minnesota Statute, section 260C.212, Subd. 7 (d) (1) Notice: At the court review, the responsible social services agency shall establish that it has given the notice required under section 260C.456 or Minnesota Rules, part 9560.0660, regarding the right to continued access to services for certain children in foster care</p>	<p>Bulletin: Fostering Connections Guidance and Changes to Foster Care for Youth Ages 18–21, #10-68-12</p>

		of extended foster care benefits	past age 18 and of the right to appeal a denial of social services under section 256.045. If the agency is unable to establish that the notice, including the right to appeal a denial of social services, has been given, the court shall require the agency to give it.	
18-21: Annual review	Court review of youth in extended foster care	Minnesota Statute, section 260C.201, Subd. 10 (e) Court review of Children Past Age 18: When a child remains in foster care pursuant to section 260C.451 and the court has jurisdiction pursuant to section 260C.193, subdivision 6, paragraph (c), the court shall annually conduct the review required under subdivision 11, paragraph (d), or sections 260C.212, subdivision 7, and 260C.317, subdivision 3.	Bulletin: Fostering Connections Guidance and Changes to Foster Care for Youth Ages 18–21, #10-68-12	
16-21	Long-term foster care determination	Minnesota Statute, section 260C.317, Subd. 3 (c) Long term foster care determination: The responsible social services agency may make a determination of compelling reasons for a child to be in long-term foster care when the agency has made exhaustive efforts to recruit, identify, and place the child in an adoptive home, and the child continues in foster care for at least 24 months after the court has issued the order terminating parental rights. A child of any age who is under the guardianship of the commissioner of the Department of Human Services and is legally available for adoption may not refuse or waive the commissioner's agent's exhaustive efforts to recruit, identify, and place the child in an adoptive home required under paragraph (b) or sign a document relieving county social services agencies of all recruitment efforts on the child's behalf. Upon approving the agency's determination of compelling reasons, the court may order the child placed in long-term foster care. At least every 12 months thereafter as long as the child continues in out-of-home placement, the court shall conduct an in-court permanency review hearing to determine the future status of the child using the review requirements of section 260C.201, subdivision 11, paragraph (g).	Practice Guide: Using Long-Term Foster Care, DHS-4862	
16-21: Yearly reviews	Court review: Order for long-term foster care	Minnesota Statutes, section 260C.201, Subd. 11 (g) Court reviews of an order for long-term foster care: Court reviews of an order for long-term foster care, whether under this section or section 260C.317, subdivision 3, paragraph (d), must be conducted at least yearly and must review the child's out-of-home placement plan and the reasonable efforts of the agency to finalize the permanent plan for the	Practice Guide: Using Long-Term Foster Care, DHS-4862	

		<p>child including the agency's efforts to: (1) ensure that long-term foster care continues to be the most appropriate legal arrangement for meeting the child's need for permanency and stability or, if not, to identify and attempt to finalize another permanent placement option under this chapter that would better serve the child's needs and best interests; (2) identify a specific long-term foster home for the child, if one has not already been identified; (3) support continued placement of the child in the identified home, if one has been identified; (4) ensure appropriate services are provided to address the physical health, mental health, and educational needs of the child during the period of long-term foster care and also ensure appropriate services or assistance to maintain relationships with appropriate family members and the child's community; and (5) plan for the child's independence upon the child's leaving long-term foster care living as required under section 260C.212, subdivision 1.</p>	
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