Top 3 Tips for Attorneys Representing Non minor Dependents

1. Inform; Inform; Inform
   - If your client is approaching the age of 18, inform them of all their options:
     1. Stay in Foster Care
     2. Have their case dismissed
     3. Any other permanency options if available
   - Inform your client of the participation criteria to be and remain a nonminor dependent
     1. Be completing high school or equivalent
     2. Be enrolled in college or vocational school
     3. Be participating in a program or activity designed to promote or remove barriers to employment
     4. Be working at least 80 hours per month
     5. Be unable to do any of the above because of a medical or mental health condition
   - Inform your client of the reentry criteria and their right to reenter
     1. Reentry criteria: A youth can reenter if they meet the age criteria, were under a foster care placement order and intend to meet one of the participation criteria

2. Review, Review, Review
   - Review the Transitional Independent Living Case Plan (TILCP) with your client, ensure it has a plan and backup plan to maintain your client’s eligibility, and ensure it meets the needs of your client
   - Review the Transition Independent Living Plan (TILP). Ensure that it was developed with your client and it accurately reflects your client’s future goals and how to achieve those goals.
   - Review the report to ensure that the nonminor dependent has meaningful lifelong connections that will be available to the nonminor when their case is dismissed

3. Advocate, Advocate, Advocate
   - Advocate for the best placement option for your client.
     1. Remember the 2 additional placement options for nonminor dependents: SILP and THP+FC
     2. A nonminor may return to the family home; however, they may no longer qualify for nonminor dependent status.
   - Advocate for all the fiscal and program benefits that may be available to your client regardless of whether they stay in foster care, guardianship or adoption
   - Advocate for the best and most appropriate permanent plan for your client, including adult adoption.