

## Scott's Crib Sheet

### 1. Plan Ahead

- Find out what benefits you can get
- Find out how old you have to be to get benefits
- Get information about other options
- Apply 6 months ahead of time for housing vouchers

### 2. Know Your Options

- Where do you want to live?
- What kind of apartment do you want?
- Do you want a roommate?
- Are there relatives you could live with?
- Make a list of your priorities

### 3. Save Money

- Open a bank account
- Start saving money
- Save enough money to move into an apartment, including last month's rent and damage deposit

### 4. Get References

- Ask someone if you can use them as a reference
- List several people who you could use as references with their contact info

### 5. Start Searching

- Start looking 6-7 months before you leave
- Look in newspapers and online
- Ask your agency
- Ask everyone you know

### 6. Dress for Success

- Wear professional clothes
- Use your best speaking voice
- Be on time
- Have positive attitude
- Have ID and other information handy

### 7. Ask Questions

- Does the rent include heat and hot water?
- Is there anything in the apartment that should be repaired?
- Does the neighborhood feel safe?
- Do you want to bring someone with you to look at the apartment?

### 8. Read the Lease

- Find an adult you trust to read the lease and explain it to you
- Pay special attention to things that concern you, such as a ban on pets

### 9. Keep It Down

- Don't make too much noise



# My First Apartment

**PLAN AHEAD:** Ask your social worker or independent living coordinator about resources or money you'll get when you leave care.

What benefits will you get when you leave foster care? These can include discharge grants and housing vouchers.



1. \_\_\_\_\_ 4. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_ 5. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_ 6. \_\_\_\_\_

For each benefit, when do you need to apply?

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 4. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_ 5. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_ 6. \_\_\_\_\_

## KNOW YOUR OPTIONS:

Where do you want to live—close to school, your job, or your family? Why?

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**ALWAYS VIEW THE APARTMENT BEFORE RENTING:**

What will you wear? (Dress for success!) \_\_\_\_\_

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What questions will you ask? (For instance, "Are heat and hot water included in the rent?") \_\_\_\_\_

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**SIGN THE LEASE:**

What adult do you trust to read the lease and explain it to you?

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## GET REFERENCES:

Who can you use as a reference for renting an apartment? (List all the people—social workers, teachers, employers, or other adults in your life who will put in a good word for you and any contact info you have for them.)



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## START SEARCHING:

What newspapers or online sites can you look for to find an apartment?

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 4. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_ 5. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_ 6. \_\_\_\_\_

Who in your agency can you ask for help? \_\_\_\_\_

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Who else could help you find an apartment? \_\_\_\_\_

What would be your ideal living situation? How would your apartment be

furnished? \_\_\_\_\_

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Do you want a roommate to save money? Why or why not? \_\_\_\_\_

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Are there relatives you could live with? If so, who? \_\_\_\_\_

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### **SAVE MONEY:**

Have you opened a bank account and started to save money for your apartment including last month's rent and deposit? If not, why not? If so, good for you! How much money have you saved?

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