###### RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

1. The right to adequate food, clothing and shelter;
2. The right to be free from physical, sexual or emotional injury or exploitation;
3. The right to develop physically, mentally and emotionally to their potential;
4. The right to educational instruction; and,
5. The right to a safe, secure, and stable family.
6. The right to have their education needs met.
7. The right to remain in the same educational setting prior to removal, whenever possible.
8. The right to be placed in the least restrictive setting in close proximity to his/her home that meets his/her needs and serves his/her best interests to the extent that such placement is available.
9. The right to information about the circumstances requiring his/her initial and continued placement.
10. The right to receive notice of, attend, and be consulted in the development of case plans during periodic reviews.
11. The right to receive notice of and participate in court hearings.
12. The right to notice and explanation for changes in placement or visitation agreements.
13. The right to visit the family in the family home, receive visits from family and friends, and have telephone conversations with family members, when not contraindicated by the case plan or court order.
14. The right to participate in in social extracurricular, enrichment, cultural and social activities, including sports, field trips and overnight activities.
15. The right to express opinions on issues concerning his/her care or treatment.
16. Youth 14 and older: The right to designate two additional people to participate in case planning conferences/periodic reviews, who are not the foster parent of the child’s worker, and who may advocate on the child’s behalf. (The agency may reject an individual with reasonable belief that individual will not act appropriately on the child’s behalf.)
17. Youth ages 14 and older: The right to receive a written description of the programs and services that will help them prepare for the transition from foster care to successful adulthood.
18. Youth ages 14 and older: To receive a consumer report yearly until discharged from care and to receive assistance in interpreting and resolving any inaccuracies in the report.
19. Youth preparing to exit by reason of attaining 18 years or older are entitled to receive, free of charge: an official birth certificate, a social security card, health insurance information, a copy of their medical records, and a state issued ID.