

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;
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 before removal, whenever possible;
8. The right to be placed in the least restrictive setting near 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 social extracurriculars, 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 aged fourteen (14) and older: The right to designate two (2) additional people to participate in case planning conferences/periodic reviews, who are not the foster parent or the child's worker, and who may advocate for the child. (The agency may reject an individual with a reasonable belief that the individual will not act appropriately on the child's behalf.);
17. Youth aged fourteen (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 aged fourteen (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; and
19. Youth preparing to exit because of attaining age eighteen (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 identification card (ID).