

Bill of Rights

1. The right to live in a safe and healthy home	2. The right to be treated fairly and with respect	3. The right to visits with parents and to live with your children	4. The right to live with siblings or to visit them
<p>You have the right to live in a safe home and to not be exploited by anyone, including parents, foster parents, group home staff or guardians of your case. You have the right to food and clothing that is healthy and appropriate.</p>	<p>You have the right to be treated fairly and not be discriminated against because of your gender, race, religion, sexual orientation, or mental or physical health. You cannot be treated unfairly just because you are in foster care!</p>	<p>You have the right to visit with family members, siblings, parents and grandparents as it is deemed appropriate by the court. You have the right to see and live with your own children whenever possible, as well as the right to make choices for your own children as it is deemed appropriate by the court.</p>	<p>You have the right to live with your siblings if possible, and if not possible, you have the right to visit with them if deemed appropriate and if no barrier prevents it.</p>
5. The right to know contact information for your county workers	6. The right to be free from cruel and unnecessary punishment	7. The right to have a voice in your permanency goals	8. The right to receive medical, dental, vision, and mental and behavioral health services regularly
<p>You have the right to know your attorney, caseworker and caseworkers' supervisors. You have the right to see your caseworker at least once a month and the right to speak with your caseworker, attorney and/or caseworker's supervisor in private. You have the right for your personal information to be kept private and only given to those who have the legal right to see it.</p>	<p>You have the right to be free from cruel and unnecessary punishment, including but not limited to being physically hit, bullied or being isolated from others. No one can deny you food, water or sleep. No one can deny you the right to see your family as a form of punishment. You may not be disciplined justly without reason, and you must know why you are disciplined.</p>	<p>You have the right to have a say in your future and to have the court consider your wishes. Depending upon your age, you may have a right to participate in your permanency hearing. You may also have the right to continued contact with your caseworker after leaving care.</p>	<p>You have the right to receive medical attention on a regular basis for dental, medical, vision, and mental and behavioral health. You have the right to information about healthy and safe sexual practices, as well as reproductive health information. You have the right, after the age of 18, to receive your birth certificate, social security card, medical records and state-issued identification.</p>
9. The right to an education until you get an HSE diploma or high school diploma		10. The right to participate in activities that are age-appropriate	
<p>You have the right to receive a free and appropriate education until you receive a high school diploma or HSE diploma. You also have the right to request assistance in applying to colleges and vocational programs that are in- or out-of-state.</p>		<p>You have the right to participate in activities that are age-appropriate, such as after-school activities, summer activities and work experience, and to practice religion if you have one. When you reach the age of 16, you have the right to apply for your license and to receive guidance in getting a job.</p>	

What to do if you feel your rights are not being respected

You have the right to report whoever is disrespecting your rights, and you cannot be punished for reporting them.

- Tell your caseworker or their supervisor. You can ask to speak to them in private.
- Tell your attorney. They cannot tell anyone else about the conversations you have, unless you give permission or if your safety is at risk.