



OKLAHOMA FOSTER YOUTH MATTERS

As a child in foster care,
you have rights!

QUESTIONS?

okfosteryouthmatters.org

405-522-2720

- First talk with your caseworker, they are your ally and are there to help you with any issue you might be having.
- If that has been unsuccessful or you are uncomfortable doing this, contact a Youth Advocate at **405-522-2720** or file a grievance at **okfosteryouthmatters.org**
- Not sure if your rights have been violated or you just want to talk through your situation? You are welcome to talk with our Youth Advocate at any time by calling **405-522-2720**.

WHO CAN FILE?

- Any child served by child welfare services.
- Anyone can file on behalf of a child including parents, foster parents, family, CASA, attorney, teacher, etc.
- Anyone who knows and cares about this child and their well-being.



I HAVE THE RIGHT...

➤ TO SAFETY

- To be placed in a safe and healthy home of a family member; a foster parent or foster home that I've lived in before; or a home that is as close to my own home as possible and with people who will be able to talk with me in my own language, if at all possible.

➤ TO BE INFORMED

- To know about where I am going to live before I get there and maybe even get to visit the people or place first.
- To be told at least five days before I have to move somewhere else, unless it's an emergency. And to be told why I am being moved in a way that I can understand. I will also have help moving my things, so I don't have to leave any of my belongings behind.

➤ TO FAMILY

- To be placed with my brothers or sisters, if possible.
- To know what is happening with me, my brothers/ sisters, and my family.
- To have a written plan for visits with my family and to be able to speak with my family and friends, if it is safe and fair.

➤ TO HEALTH

- To receive good medical, dental, eye care, counseling and other things I need to be healthy and safe. To receive only the medicine my doctors say I need for my health and well-being (*and not too much!*)
- To clean clothes that fit and are right for the weather at the time.

➤ TO EDUCATION, SOCIAL AND RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES

- To stay in the same school, if possible, and to get the best education I can get!
- To join after school activities and social activities as long as it is family friendly and for my age group. (*Like: sports, music, dance, scouts, etc.*)
- To not attend church or church-type events, if I am not ok with it and to freely enjoy my own religion.

➤ TO BE HEARD

- To talk to my lawyer, caseworker or CASA on a regular basis and to have a private talk with the judge, if I don't feel like anyone on my team is helping or listening to my concerns.
- To help my case worker make my own service plan, understand what it says, and sign it, if I am able.
- To go to and speak at court hearings or family team meetings, if it is ok for kids to attend.
- To be able to have all of the services, placements, care, treatment and benefits I need. I am to be treated equally with no bullying or revenge.

➤ TO PRIVACY

- To have the right amount of privacy for my age for me, my things, and my conversations/texts. If I have a juvenile record, that is also to be kept confidential.

➤ TO A FUTURE

- To get a job and learn job skills, if I am old enough, and learn to budget my own money. I also have the right to all of my important papers when I'm 18 and can learn about Independent Living Services.