

# BILL OF RIGHTS



## CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN FOSTER CARE HAVE THE RIGHT TO:

- 1 **Be treated with respect** regardless of age, race, culture, gender, sexual orientation, gender expression, religious beliefs, family relations, or family history.
- 2 **Live in a safe and healthy environment** with adequate clothing, appropriate hygienic items, and sufficient food of nutritional value.
- 3 Have **access to adequate health care** services including mental health, physical health, dental health, as well as the right to request medical appointments and consistent and quality medical attention.
- 4 **Attend our school of origin** or an appropriate school and access to transportation to and from school (and/or employment and extracurricular activities, if applicable).
- 5 Participate in or continue to **participate in healthy and appropriate activities** associated with school, culture, a religious organization, or within the community.
- 6 Have **access to vital documents** (birth certificate, social security card, state identification card) before aging out of foster care, as well as access to services and resources regarding the transition to adulthood.
- 7 **Express** our opinions, thoughts, needs, and feelings **in a respectful, constructive manner**.
- 8 **Actively participate in case planning** and to be informed of changes in our case, including participation in placement decisions.
- 9 Be allowed to **pack our own belongings** in luggage or other suitable containers.
- 10 **Receive quality services** that meet our specific needs in conjunction with a stable environment and the least amount of disruptions.
- 11 **Be informed of our rights** and to have an identified person or entity to contact when rights are violated, such as our Guardian ad Litem or Ombudsman.
- 12 **Maintain healthy relationships** with parents and siblings through frequent visitation and contact.
- 13 Have **access to important adults** including caseworkers and legal representatives.
- 14 **Be informed** of when our court hearings are and be able to attend those hearings