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.