YOU HAVE A VOICE

Utah Foster Youth Bill of Rights

The Utah Foster Youth Bill of Rights was created in collaboration with foster youth to ensure that children and teens who come into state care both understand and are empowered to exercise the following rights:

Be treated with respect
regardless of age, race, culture, gender, sexual orientation, gender expression, religious beliefs, family relations, or family history.

Live in a safe and healthy environment
with adequate clothing, appropriate hygienic items, and sufficient food of nutritional value.

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.

Attend their school of origin
or an appropriate school, and have access to transportation to and from school (and/or employment and extracurricular activities, if applicable).

Participate in or continue to participate in
healthy and appropriate activities
associated with school, culture, a religious organization, or within the community.

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.

Express opinions, thoughts, needs, and feelings
in a respectful, constructive manner.

Actively participate in case planning
and to be informed of changes in their case, including participation in placement decisions.

Be allowed to pack their belongings
in luggage or other suitable containers.

Receive quality services
that meet their specific needs in conjunction with a stable environment and the least amount of disruptions.

Be informed of their rights
and to have an identified person or entity to contact when rights are violated, such as a Guardian ad Litem or Ombudsman.

Maintain healthy relationships
with parents and siblings through frequent visitation and contact.

Have access to important adults
including caseworkers and legal representatives.

Be informed of when their court hearings are
and be able to attend those hearings.

Normalcy Law

As a child or youth in state care, it’s important that you
are able to continue to participate in activities without
prior approval from DCFS. The Normalcy Law (Utah Code 62A-4a-211) recognizes the importance of DCFS making
efforts to normalize the lives of children in its custody,
and provides an opportunity for the Division to empower
your caregiver to approve or disapprove participation
in activities. These decisions should be based on the
caregiver’s own assessment using a reasonable and
prudent parent standard.