

Utah Bill of Rights for children and youth in foster care



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.

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.

Participate in healthy and appropriate activities

associated with school, culture, a religious organization, or within the community.

Express opinions, thoughts, needs, and feelings

in a respectful, constructive manner.

Be allowed to pack their belongings

in luggage or other suitable containers.

Be informed of their rights

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

Have access to important adults

including caseworkers and legal representatives.

Live in a safe and healthy environment

with adequate clothing, appropriate hygienic items, and sufficient food of nutritional value.

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).

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.

Actively participate in case planning

and be informed of changes in their case, including participation in placement decisions.

Receive quality services

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

Maintain healthy relationships

with parents and siblings through frequent visitation and contact.

Be informed of when their court hearings are

and be able to attend those hearings.

