

## Foster Care Youth Rights and Responsibilities

- Be treated respectfully.
- Help make decisions about your life.
- Have what is happening explained to you in a way that you can understand.
- Visit regularly with your parents and other family members, unless limited by the court.
- Have a say in the long-term plan for where you are going to live and understand what that plan is.
- Know the people involved in your case, what they do and how to contact them.
- Be able to attend school, go to doctors, dentists, therapists and other services you need.
- If you are 14 years or older, you can go to court and case reviews. You may also invite other people who are important to you to come to the reviews.
- Be able to visit the foster family or group care home before you move there.
- Have a say in the services you get and have a copy of your case plan. Your plan should be reviewed with you every six months by your caseworker and others that are involved in your case.
- Get food, shelter, clothing, and health care during your placement from your foster parents or group home staff.
- Be treated the same as the other children in the placement – either by foster parents or group home staff.
- Keep (or have kept safe for you) money that you earn or receive as a gift or allowance.
- Know what is expected of you and what your rights are.
- A lawyer – sometimes called a guardian ad litem – to be with you at court hearings and to talk to when you have questions about court issues.
- A reasonable amount of privacy.
- Chances to be involved in fun activities – like soccer or dance.
- An opportunity to finish high school.
- Visit with your worker on a regular basis – should be at least monthly.
- If still in high school, or working on getting your GED when turning 18. You may request to remain voluntarily remain in foster care and continue to receive services.