

Bill of Rights

care, and developmental & mental health services paid for through the Maryland Medical Assistance Program. These services include a yearly physical and eye exam and dental examinations twice a year.

- To be free from the administration of medication or chemical substances unless authorized by a medical provider.
- To tell your caseworker that you are no longer interested in placement through the local Department of Social Services after your 18th birthday.
- To understand what expectations and benefits you receive if you stay in a placement through the local Department of Social Services after your 18th birthday.
- To remain in placement until your 21st birthday if you are not fully prepared to exit care.
- To re-enter care if you leave placement out-of-home care after you are 18 years old until 20.6 years old and meet the criteria for enhanced aftercare.
- To receive an annual credit report, and assistance in fixing inaccuracies if you are at least 14 years old or older.

Out-of-Home Care Youth Bill of Rights



- To participate in age and developmentally appropriate programs offered through the Administration or any other appropriate state agency that assists youth in your placement to achieve self-sufficiency after leaving care.
- To receive an “Annual Notice of Benefits” notification annually.
- To receive a copy of the rights described in the “Bill of Rights” and to have these rights fully explained by the Administration consistent with your age and developmental level and understanding.



Out-of-Home Care Youth Bill of Rights

As a youth aged 13 and older who is placed in a setting outside of your family, you have rights.



YOU HAVE RIGHTS

- To live in a safe, healthy, and comfortable home and be treated with respect.
- To be free from abuse, neglect, and exploitation.
- To fair treatment, whatever your gender, gender identity, race, ethnicity, religion, national origin, disability, medical needs, and/or sexual orientation.
- To visit and have regular contact with your parents, siblings, and other family members (unless a court order limits your contact), and to have your caseworker explain specific visitation opportunities and/or restrictions to you as written in your case record.
- To be involved and actively participate in developing your placement and permanency plan, and be informed of any changes to those plans as early as 12 years old.
- To fair and equal access to available services, placements,

TO KNOW



- Why are you placed outside of your family?
- What will happen to you?
- What is happening to your family (including siblings), and how will you and the local Department of Social Services help you plan your future?

YOU HAVE RIGHTS

- care, treatment, and benefits.
- To attend court hearings, speak with the Judge and/or Magistrate and receive a copy of the court documents for your records.
- To attend school and participate in extracurricular, cultural, and personal enrichment activities consistent with your age and developmental level.
- To be involved in your educational planning.
- To have social contacts with people outside your home placement, including teachers, church members, mentors, and friends.
- To work and develop job skills consistent with your age and developmental level.
- To access information on Tuition Assistance, Educational Training Vouchers (ETV), job training, and internship opportunities.
- To request a meeting with your caseworker and foster/resource parents if there are concerns about your current living arrangement.
- To have your own bed while in your resource home.
- To speak and be spoken to in your own language when possible.
- NOT to share a room with an adult.
- To receive adequate and healthy

YOU HAVE RIGHTS

- meals in your placement home.
- To receive adequate clothing in your placement home.
- To store your belongings in a safe place.
- To privacy when you take a bath, shower, and get dressed.
- NOT to be locked in a room, building, or facility premises.
- To contact your caseworker, social worker, attorney, youth advocate, supporters and/or CASA worker when appropriate.
- To confidentially contact the local Administration regarding violations of your rights and be free of threats or punishment for making complaints.
- To make and receive confidential phone calls and send and receive unopened mail unless prohibited by court order.
- To receive medical, dental, vision

