

Rights for Wyoming Foster Youth

The following list of rights shall be given to and read/explained to all youth entering care in the State of Wyoming. This list shall also be given to foster parents and other providers to help support their efforts in addition to supporting youth while in their home/facility.

All youth in the State of Wyoming's custody have the following rights:

1. The right to receive services without regard to race, ethnicity, gender, sexual identity/orientation, religion and/or disability.
2. The right to live in a safe and secure home with appropriate bedding, clothing and food and to have a place to store his/her personal belongings. The right to discuss food choices (likes and dislikes), dietary needs, and appropriate clothing.
3. The right to be informed of the names, phone numbers and work addresses of his/her assigned attorney and caseworker. This information will be provided and updated with any changes in a timely manner.
4. The right to have one-on-one contact alone with their assigned caseworker and attorney (Guardian ad Litem (GAL) and/or Public Defender) to discuss the case and have legal representation. The youth has the right to ask to speak to the attorney privately.
5. The right to participant in placement options and permanency planning to include:
 - The right to identify a relative, kin or someone close to the youth (friend's parents, coach, teacher, etc), who could be involved as a placement option and/or permanent connection.
 - The right to have regular contact with relatives and permanent connection person(s).
 - The right to discuss permanency options.
6. The right to be placed with sibling(s) when there are no safety issues;
 - If siblings are unable to be placed together due to space in a foster home, that youth is informed and updated if/when accommodations can be made;
 - The right to consistent and regular visits with the youth's siblings (if parents are not having visits). If there are safety issues, the Department shall arrange for other forms of contact;
 - Be informed of siblings' life and changes, if not placed with sibling; and
 - The right to know what the expectations are for continued contact when a sibling is adopted or placed in a guardianship or placement away from the youth.
7. The right to have family relationships recognized and respected.
 - The right to consistent and regular visits with the youth's family. If there are safety issues, the Department shall arrange for other forms of contact;
 - When siblings are not in custody, the right to know how they are doing and advocate, request and arrange visitation when there are no safety issues.
8. The right to participate in developing the case plan and transition plan. The right to have copies of all plans.
 - The right to identify two (2) adults who can advocate for the youth.
 - The right to be informed by the caseworker and/or the attorney about any changes in the case plan timely and no later than 30 days of change;
 - The right to attend and/or provide information for all multidisciplinary (MDT) team and family team meetings. The right to share information and/or advocate for their siblings.

9. The right to be told about changes in placement by his/her caseworker and/or attorney;
 - If the change of placement is due to foster home issues, then I understand the information may not be shared with me.
 - If the change in placement is due to more restrictive placement, the right to know why.
10. The right to be informed of, attend, and speak at his/her court hearings and to advise the court of his/her desired outcome.
 - The right to review and receive a copy of the court reports (Predisposition Reports, Quarterly Reports/Permanency Reports) and orders of the court; and to have his/her juvenile records kept confidential.
11. The right to be free from physical, sexual, mental or emotional abuse; and/or corporal punishment (physical discipline) for any reason.
12. The right to appropriate and reasonable health care and medical treatment including but not limited to seeing a doctor, dentist, and/or eye doctor; and to participate in the treatment plan.
13. The right to request a mental health evaluation and services as well as participate in the treatment plan discussions.
14. The right to access information contained by Department of Family Services, which may include:
 - medical, therapeutic, dental and educational records;
 - personal information such as social security card, birth certificate, and green card.
 - Once the youth leaves foster care, he/she shall be given their social security card, birth certificate, and green card.
15. When attaining the age of majority, youth are entitled to copies of medical, dental, educational, and court records held by the Department of Family Services as well as personal documents such as social security card, birth certificate, Medicaid card and green card.
 - The right to receive their court file through the GAL Program and the Proof of Foster Care Information.
16. The right to receive assistance in acquiring life skills and assessments which may include:
 - education,
 - financial literacy,
 - driver's education,
 - career guidance to accomplish personal goals,
 - preparation for the future,
 - be informed of the post-secondary educational and employment supports available to youth in foster care, and
 - community resources to include contact with Independent Living Coordinators and attend Independent Living meetings.
17. At age fourteen (14) and older (while in DFS custody), the right to be provided a copy of his/her credit report annually.
18. The right to receive a quality education and remain in their school of origin, with minimal disruption;
 - to right to receive an evaluation (when necessary) and receive supports and/or special educational services when indicated;
 - to have schools share necessary information about the youth to continue supports and services;

- to have information shared with the Department, GALs and other court members, including information on attendance and educational progress; and
 - the right to participate in extracurricular, cultural, and personal enrichment activities.
19. The right to know the status of incarceration of the offender throughout the life of the case.
- After the case is closed or the youth leaves foster care, the youth has the right to know the offender's status: location, continued incarceration and/or release.
<https://www.vinelink.com/#state-selection>

These rights are set forth herein to more specifically highlight youth rights. Youth continue to have all the rights provided to them pursuant to federal, state and local laws and regulations. Enforcement and implementation of these rights shall comply with all applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations as currently promulgated and as they may be amended.

If you feel that your voice has not been heard, please contact one or more of the following:
Caseworker, Guardian Ad Litem (GAL)/Attorney, DFS Supervisor, DFS Manager

Names, Address and Phone Numbers

DFS Caseworker: _____ Phone: _____

Mailing Address: _____

DFS Supervisor: _____ Phone: _____

Mailing Address: _____

DFS Manager: _____ Phone: _____

Mailing Address: _____

GAL/Attorney: _____ Phone: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Rights for Wyoming Foster Youth

I have had the “Rights for Wyoming Foster Youth” read/explained to me and have received a copy of the “Rights for Wyoming Foster Youth”.

Youth’s Signature

Date

Youth’s Name (print)

I read/explained and provided a copy of the “Rights for Wyoming Foster Youth” to

Youth

Signature

Date

Print Name

Title