

Some Safeguards for Youth Who Reside in Foster Care in Colorado

If you are a youth residing in foster care (not the division of youth corrections (DYC) or a state mental health hospital), in addition to the rights outlined in "Some Rights of All Youth with Colorado Dependency and Neglect Cases," you should have the following things during reasonable times of the day, if they work with the foster home's routine:

- Appropriate and reasonable adult guidance, support, and supervision in a safe, healthy, and comfortable place where you are treated with respect and dignity.
- Freedom from physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, other abuse, or physical punishment.
- Enough healthy food, enough clothing, and enough allowance.
- Needed medical, dental, vision, and mental health services.
- Freedom from prescriptions or other chemical substances, unless authorized by a doctor.
- Freedom to contact people who are working to help you, including case workers, attorneys, supporters, court-appointed special advocates (CASAs), and probation officers (POs).
- Freedom to contact the child protection ombudsman, county DHS, or state DHS with any questions, concerns, or violations of the things listed here, and to speak to those people and/or people in those offices privately.
- Freedom from threats or punishment for making complaints.
- Making and receiving private telephone calls and sending and receiving unopened mail, if doing so fits your permanency goals.
- Freedom to attend religious services and activities.
- Permission to maintain a bank account and manage your income, if doing so is appropriate for your age and development, and permitted by your case plan.
- Freedom from being abandoned or locked in a room.
- Appropriate education, access to transportation, participation in school, cultural, and personal activities that fit your age and development.
- Freedom to work and develop job skills, in line with your permanency goals.

Please turn the page for more



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- Freedom to contact people outside the foster care system, such as teachers, church members, mentors, and friends in line with your permanency goals.
- Freedom to attend independent living classes if you meet the age and other requirements.
- A safe place to store your personal belongings.
- As fits your age and development, participating in, and reviewing, your case plan. If you are 12 or older, receiving information about your out-of-home placement and case plan, including any changes to your case plan.
- Confidentiality of all juvenile court records, as required by the law.
- Fair and equal access to available services, placements, care, treatment, and benefits based on your treatment plan.
- Freedom from discrimination or harassment because of your race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, mental or physical disability, or HIV status.
- If you are 16 or older, access to information regarding available education choices, including the classes necessary for job and education programs after high school, and information about programs to help you pay for education after high school.
- Staying in the school you attended before you were placed, unless staying in that school is not in your best interests.
- Staying with your parent or legal guardian unless your welfare and safety or the public would be put in danger. As soon as possible, a court deciding where it is in your best interests to live.
- Placement in a home where your caregiver knows and understands your history, if your history matters for your care.
- Successful handling of your case.
- Planning that aims for your safe return to your family or move to another forever home.
- If you are 12 or older, and as fits your development, being involved in meetings where decisions are made about your future.
- Having DHS bring together your family and other supports to meetings where plans for your future are decided.
- Placement in the least restrictive setting that fits your needs.
- Living with, or visits with, your brothers and/or sisters.

Please talk with your GAL about your comments and/or questions!