

FOSTER CHILDREN'S BILL OF RIGHTS



- The right to privacy concerning the child's personal and confidential information.
- The right to attend all court hearings regarding the care to be received.
- The right to be in a stable and supportive setting that is free from neglect and emotional, verbal, physical, and sexual abuse or exploitation, and that is the least restrictive to meet the child's needs.
- The right to participate in all case plan meetings, to include supportive adults of the child's choice to be on the planning team, and to be provided a copy of the child's case plan every six months or whenever changes are made to the plan.
- The right to have the child's medical and mental health needs met on a regular and timely basis.
- The right to be provided adequate trauma-based counseling and therapeutic services throughout the child's time in foster care.
- The right to be provided the contact information of the child's caseworker, attorney, and CASA volunteer, and to attend meetings with them on a regular basis.
- The right to have access to a telephone to talk to or visit with approved friends and relatives, including siblings, at least once a month.
- The right to access materials necessary for school and to further the child's education, including access to a computer or other electronic devices and to the internet when needed to complete assignments, the right to receive tutoring services, and the right to access information regarding college admissions.
- The right to access information regarding testing accommodations for any learning or developmental disability or special health need.
- The right to be involved in extracurricular activities, including school clubs, dances, field trips, and sports teams, and to be provided with supplies and uniforms required for team participation.
- The right to remain in the child's school of origin.
- The right to attend a driver's education class.
- The right to obtain employment and transportation to employment within the vicinity of foster care placement.

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- The right to refuse involvement in religious-based activities and the right to continue the child's cultural, religious, and ethnic traditions and belief systems.
- The right to be free from discrimination of any kind on the basis of the child's race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national, ethnic, or social origin, property, disability, birth, or other status.
- The right to attend and have transportation to services, events, and activities provided by the Independent Living Skills Program within the child's region, the right to receive timely notification of upcoming child advocacy and engagement services in the child's region, and the right to be provided with the entire amount of the monthly allowance as outlined in department policy.
- The right to express and voice the child's needs, concerns, and desires about foster care.
- The right to proper luggage that is considered to be durable and reusable containers that are in new or like-new condition to move between foster homes to ensure the child's dignity and safety. Luggage includes backpacks, boxes, duffel bags, or suitcases. The use of garbage bags is strictly prohibited.

It is the responsibility of the local social services districts to provide foster children with proper luggage. These districts, along with the Department of Children and Family Services, shall host biennial luggage donation drives for luggage to be distributed to foster children.

It is the responsibility of the host family to ensure that the luggage provided by the Department of Children and Family Services remains with each child.

- The right to reliable and safe transportation, including the right to the age appropriate car restraint system necessary to protect the child as required by R.S.32:295.
- The right to be placed with a suitable family member or other suitable individual as defined in the Children's Code Article 603, when one has been identified and is capable of safely and appropriately caring for the child.

[La R.S. 46:286.16](#)

