

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, religion and/or disability.
2. The right to live in a safe and secure home with appropriate clothing and food and to have a place to store his/her personal belongings.
3. The right to be informed of the names and phone numbers and addresses of his/her assigned attorney and caseworker; and allow for confidential contact with assigned attorney and caseworker.
4. The right to attend educational meetings.
5. The right to participate in the creation of his/her case plan, permanency plan, and transition plan; to be informed by the caseworker and/or the attorney about any changes in the case plan; to be told about changes in placement by his/her caseworker; to provide information for all multidisciplinary and family team meetings; the right to be informed of, attend, and speak at his/her court hearings; to advise the court of his/her desired outcome; to have legal representation; to review and receive a copy of the court reports and case plan; and to have his/her juvenile records kept confidential.
6. The right to be free from physical, sexual or emotional abuse; and/or corporal punishment for any reason.
7. The right to appropriate and reasonable health care and medical treatment including but not limited to seeing a doctor, dentist, eye doctor, or counselor if needed; and to be informed of the treatment plan.
8. The right to access information contained in medical, dental and educational records held by the Department of Family Services (DFS), as well as personal documents such as social security card, birth certificate, and green card. 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.
9. 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.

10. At age fourteen (14) and older (while in DFS custody), the right to be provided a copy of his/her credit report annually.
11. The right to have family relationships recognized and respected. The right to consistent and regular contact with the youth's family when no safety issues exist; to 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.
12. The right to receive a quality education with minimal disruption; to retention in the youth's school; to referral for an evaluation when necessary; to special educational services when indicated; to the sharing of necessary information between the school, the Department, and other juvenile court stakeholders, including information on attendance and educational progress; and to participate in extracurricular, cultural, and personal enrichment activities.

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.

Names, Address and Phone Numbers

DFS Caseworker: _____ Phone: _____

Mailing Address: _____

DFS Supervisor: _____ 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