

FEDERAL LAW, TEXAS LAW, AND MINIMUM STANDARDS ENSURE THAT YOU HAVE RIGHTS WHILE YOU ARE IN THE CONSERVATORSHIP OF THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY AND PROTECTIVE SERVICES (DFPS).



This brochure gives you a brief overview of your rights and what you can expect from DFPS. You will be required to sign a more detailed copy of your rights and may receive help in understanding them, if needed.



SCAN FOR MORE INFORMATION

## Children and Youth in Foster Care



### IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

- |              |  |
|--------------|--|
| 800-252-5400 | DFPS Texas Abuse and Neglect Hotline                 |
| 844-286-0769 | HHSC Ombudsman for Children and Youth in Foster Care |
| 800-720-7777 | DFPS Office of Consumer Affairs                      |
| 800-252-9108 | Disability Rights Texas                              |



Texas Department of  
Family and Protective Services  
Child Protective Services

# YOUR RIGHTS



# While in foster care

# YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO

## SAFETY AND CARE

- Be told why you are in foster care and what will happen to you and your family while in foster care.
- Be told what the rules are.
- Be treated with respect and receive good care in a safe place.
- Not be abused, neglected, exploited, or harassed.
- Receive fair treatment.
- Have privacy for personal needs.

## FAMILY & OTHER CONTACTS

- Live with your siblings if they are in foster care and if not, to be told why you cannot live together.
- Visit and talk on the phone with your family, teachers, and friends unless prohibited by the court.



## HAVE A NORMAL LIFE

- Be spoken to in your own language when possible.
- Go to school.
- Have your religious needs met.
- To live a normal life and be included in foster family activities.
- Decide what outside activities you want to participate in.
- Be yourself and have friends.
- Have privacy.
- Work, keep the money you earn, and have a bank account.
- Eat healthy foods.
- Choose appropriate clothing that you like.
- Have your personal things protected and respected.
- Have your things moved in luggage if you move somewhere new.

## DISCIPLINE

- Be free of unreasonable punishment; including being denied food, mail, phone calls, or family visits as punishment, or threats of punishment such as physical harm or loss of placement.
- Be informed about behavior intervention policies.

## FUTURE LIFE PLANS

- Have your caseworker visit you once a month.
- Participate in meetings that discuss plans about your life.
- Have at least two people you know participate in meetings that discuss plans about your life.
- Receive and review copies of plans about your life.
- Receive information about services and benefits available to you when you leave foster care.

## MEDICAL

- Go to good doctors, dentists, eye doctors, and therapists.
- Be involved with decisions about your medical care.
- Not be forced to take unneeded or too much medication.

## LEGAL/COURTS

- Contact your caseworker, your attorney, probation officer, CASA, or anyone else who can help with your case.
- Go to your court hearings and talk to the judge.

## RECORDS

- Have your records and personal information be kept private.
- Receive your personal documents before ages 16 and 18.
- Receive a copy of the CPS Rights of Children and Youth in Foster Care.

## COMPLAINTS

- Not be punished for making complaints.
- Make a report if you are not safe or you are being treated unfairly.
- Receive contact information about Disability Rights Texas for disability assistance.

