

SB 123: Foster Youth Bill of Rights (Excerpt)

SECTION 2.

It is the intent of the Legislative Assembly that each foster child have certain essential rights, including but not limited to the following:

- (1) To have the ability to make oral and written complaints about care, placement or services that are unsatisfactory or inappropriate, and to be provided with information about a formal process for making complaints without fear of retaliation, harassment or punishment.
- (2) To be notified of, and provided with transportation to, court hearings and reviews by local citizen review boards pertaining to the foster child's case when the matters to be considered or decided upon at the hearings and reviews are appropriate for the foster child, taking into account the age and developmental stage of the foster child.
- (3) To be provided with written contact information of specific individuals whom the foster child may contact regarding complaints, concerns or violations of rights, that is updated as necessary and kept current.
- (4) When a foster child is 14 years of age or older, to be provided with written information within 60 days of the date of any placement or any change in placement, regarding:
 - (a) How to establish a bank account in the foster child's name as allowed under state law;
 - (b) How to acquire a driver license as allowed under state law;
 - (c) How to remain in foster care after reaching 18 years of age;
 - (d) The availability of a tuition and fee waiver for a current or former foster child under
 - (e) How to obtain a copy of the foster child's credit report, if any;
 - (f) How to obtain medical, dental, vision, mental health services or other treatment, including services and treatments available without parental consent under state law; and
 - (g) A transition toolkit, including a comprehensive transition plan
- (5) With respect to a foster child's rights under the federal and state constitutions, laws, including case law, rules and regulations:

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- (a) To receive a document setting forth such rights that is age and developmentally appropriate within 60 days of the date of any placement or any change in placement;
 - (b) To have a document setting forth such rights that is age and developmentally appropriate posted at the residences of all foster parents, child-caring agencies and independent resident facilities; and
 - (c) To have an annual review of such rights that is age and developmentally appropriate while the foster child is in substitute care.
- (6) To be provided with current and updated contact information for adults who are responsible for the care of the foster child and who are involved in the foster child's case, including but not limited to caseworkers, caseworker supervisors, attorneys, foster youth advocates and supporters, court appointed special advocates, local citizen review boards and employees of the Department of Human Services that provide certification of foster parents, child-caring agencies and independent resident facilities.
- (7) To have a hotline phone number that is available to the foster child at all times for the purposes of enabling the foster child to make complaints and assert grievances regarding the foster child's care, safety or well-being.