

Improving Oregon's Child Safety System

Model Court Day

August 8, 2017

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How do you keep children in foster care safe?



**OREGON FOSTER CHILDREN'S BILL OF RIGHTS
AS A CHILD OR YOUTH IN FOSTER CARE.**

I HAVE THE RIGHT:

TO HAVE WHAT EVERY CHILD NEEDS:

- * A permanent family
- * A home where I am part of the family and am treated as such
- * Nutritious food that meets my dietary needs
- * Clean and appropriate clothes that fit me and correspond to a gender identity of my choice
- * Safe housing
- * Free access to soap, shampoo, toothpaste and other hygiene needs that are necessary for my gender, age, individual health and ethnic needs
- * A safe and appropriate sleeping arrangement and adequate space for my personal belongings
- * To keep my belongings, including things I buy and gifts I receive, if I have to move
- * Access to a working telephone

TO BE SAFE:

- * To be treated with respect
- * To be appropriately disciplined
- * To be protected from physical, mental, sexual and emotional abuse
- * To have my physical boundaries respected and honored within safe, appropriate standards (ie: no forcing of hugs, hand holding)
- * To tell my caseworker, judge or the Foster Care Ombudsman when contact with someone is hurtful to me or inappropriate so that I can be protected without fear of retaliation
- * To be free from group punishment

TO SEE AND TALK TO PEOPLE I CARE ABOUT:

- * To visit and communicate with a parent or guardian, siblings, members of my family, and other significant people in my life, knowing that reasonable limits may be set by DHS and the court
- * To visit and communicate with friends and other significant people except when DHS or the court determines that contact may be unsafe or emotionally harmful
- * To participate in age appropriate activities with my peers, so long as the activity is not restricted by DHS and the court

TO BE HEALTHY:

- * To have routine check-ups to keep me healthy
- * To see a nurse or a doctor if I am sick and request medical attention
- * To have the medical, dental, and mental health care I need with a qualified appropriate provider
- * To be included in discussions and make decisions about my own body and my physical or mental health
- * To have or receive comprehensible information about me and my family's medical history as appropriate and authorized by law

TO LEARN:

- * To be provided with age-appropriate educational opportunities and schooling to prepare me for adult life
- * To have the opportunity to participate in activities that interest me; including sports, art, music or others
- * To receive extra help and tutoring if I am struggling in my school or educational placement
- * To make choices about my classes (electives, advanced placement, or college prep) and schools when the law allows me to
- * To receive age-appropriate information and assistance with enrolling in college or vocational education

TO HAVE MY RIGHTS PROTECTED:

- * To have an attorney if I want one, and to request the judge appoint a CASA advocate to my case
- * To talk to my attorney and/or CASA advocate in private
- * To be notified of court hearings, reviews by the Citizen Review Board, and what is being decided about me and my family in an age appropriate manner.
- * To be invited to attend court and talk to the judge in court about what I want and need
- * To decide whether or not I want my attorney and/or CASA advocate to speak for me
- * To call the Foster Care Ombudsman Office (free from retaliation from my foster parents or anyone else) if my rights are violated or my needs are not being met

TO BE IN A PLACE THAT MEETS MY NEEDS:

- * To be in a foster care placement close to my family so that I can visit and maintain relationships important to me, if it's safe and in my best interest, and as deemed by my case plan, visitation plan, or the court
- * To have reasonable access to my bedroom in the house or residence where I am living
- * To have a curfew and house rules that are clear and fair and to have them explained to me from the beginning

TO MAKE DECISIONS FOR MYSELF:

- * To tell the court where I want to live and whether or not I want to be adopted
- * To receive respect, be nurtured, and attend activities in accordance with my background, religious heritage, race, and culture within reasonable guidelines. To be allowed to dress and groom myself according to my culture, identity and within good hygiene standards for my health
- * To determine and express my gender and sexual identity for myself
- * To make major decisions that affect my life, in accordance with the law, my age and ability

TO BE INFORMED:

- * About financial support available to me, including allowance, obtaining a bank account and getting a job
- * About services and programs within or outside of the Department of Human Services that can provide me with support
- * About where I can go for help
- * About how the child welfare system works
- * About how to access my case records at no charge

I UNDERSTAND THAT THE ADULTS IN MY LIFE MAKE RULES AND SET LIMITS TO PROTECT ME AND HELP ME MAKE GOOD DECISIONS. WHEN I NEED TO, I CAN CONTACT MY ATTORNEY OR CASA ADVOCATE TO HELP ME AND TALK TO THEM PRIVATELY. IF I EVER NEED TO DO SO, I CAN CONTACT THE FOSTER CARE OMBUDSMAN AT YOUTH, EMPOWERMENT AND SAFETY (Y.E.S.) 1-855-840-6036 AND TALK TO THEM ABOUT MY PROBLEM.



**OREGON FOSTER CHILDREN'S BILL OF RIGHTS
IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION**

Child's or youth's name: _____

Case number/OR-Kids number: _____

Caseworker _____ Email _____ Phone _____

Supervisor _____ Email _____ Phone _____

Certifier _____ Email _____ Phone _____

Certifier's supervisor _____ Email _____ Phone _____

Branch manager _____ Email _____ Phone _____

After-hours phone number in case of an emergency (optional): _____

IF AN ICWA CASE

Tribal affiliation _____ Tribal worker _____ Phone _____

IF IN A FOSTER CARE AGENCY OR RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM

Licensing staff _____ Phone _____

Attorney _____ Phone _____

* Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) _____ Phone _____

* Independent Living Program (ILP) provider _____ Phone _____

Local Citizen Review Board (CRB) Coordinator _____ Phone _____

Y.E.S. (Youth, Empowerment & Safety) line 1-855-840-6036

Foster Care Ombudsman _____ Phone _____

OTHER SUPPORTIVE ADULTS AND ADVOCATES

_____ Phone _____

_____ Phone _____

_____ Phone _____

Date provided to child/youth _____ DHS staff providing/explaining list to youth _____ Role _____

WWW.OREGON.GOV/DHS/CHILDREN/FOSTERCARE/PAGES/IND_LIVING/ILP.ASPX

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Model Shelter Hearing Protocol

- Local process:
 - Setting hearing
 - Early appointment of attorneys
 - Timely discovery
 - Parent engagement and safety planning
 - First visit within 48 hours



What Judges Can Do

- Appoint a lawyer for the child
- Appoint a CASA for the child
- Ask the DHS caseworker about child safety
- Ask to have the child appear in court or write a letter to the judge
- Review CRB reports for safety info





A Day in Juvenile Court – Kids



All About

Today's Date: 4/22/16

My name is Ava and I am 7 years old.
MOM helped me fill this out.

Stuff About Me

Draw yourself:



I do these things for fun:

Read and
Play at home
and Ride my bike
dance

My brothers & sisters are:

Ethan Hannah obie
Grace Noah

I am awesome at:

Math.

My Top 3 Wishes are:

- 🐶 → to get a puppy
- 👩 → have curly hair
- 👸 → to be a princess

In your life, what are some:

Good Things

I Love my family. I have lots of friends.

Not-So-Good Things

none

Are you having any trouble right now?

If so what: NO

At School? ☺ Yes / No

At Home? ☺ Yes / No

What do you want the Judge to know?

That I feel happy living with my new family.

What makes you:

😊 = My sisters.
Happy

☹ = not seeing my
Sad Parents

☹ = When Noah climbs
Worried up the slide

A Day in Juvenile Court – Teens

15. What is your biggest worry about?



Preparing for Adult

A Comprehensive Transition Plan is a plan you write for your own future after you leave foster care. It includes finding a job, getting housing, and other things. Your caseworker will help you write this plan.

16. Do you have a Comprehensive Transition Plan?

17. Did you help write it?

18. If you are 17 years of age, are you ready to live on your own?

- Do you know about your rights?
- Do you know how to get a job?
- Do you know how to find housing?
- Do you know how to get transportation?

Regarding preparing for adulthood:



Court Hearings

19. Have you been to any of your court hearings? If not, why?

20. Would you like to speak to the judge at your hearing? If you cannot go to your hearing, how can you speak to the judge?

Thank you!



School

8. Do you go to school? If no, why not?

If yes, how are you doing in school?

9. Do you do sports, music, or other activities? If no, why not? If yes, what do you do?

10. If you are old enough, do you work? If yes, where do you work and how often?



Support Systems

11. Who have you seen or talked to recently? Mom Dad Caseworker Therapist

12. Is there someone else you'd like to see or talk to? If yes, please explain:

13. Do you see your caseworker and/or therapist regularly?

14. Does your caseworker help you with your case? Please leave additional comments:



Living Conditions

1. Do you feel happy and safe where you live? If no, why not?

2. Is there anything you need to improve your living conditions? If yes, what do you need?

3. Your case worker has made a case plan for you. Have you read your case plan? Did you choose two people to help you with your case plan?

4. Where would you like to live peacefully? If yes, where and why?

5. What do you like to do in your spare time?



Health

6. Do you have any medical or dental problems? If yes, are you receiving treatment?

7. Are you taking any medicine or other health care? If yes, what are you taking and why?



Help the judge help you!

Teen Comments for Court

Clatsop County Courthouse

749 Commercial, P.O. Box 835
Astoria, Oregon 97103

Please fill out this form to help the judge make better decisions about your life. Completion of this form is optional, and you are welcome to answer some questions and skip others.

When you are finished completing this form, please submit it to the court in one of the following ways:

- Give it to your lawyer, caseworker, or CASA and they will give it to the judge
- Mail this form to the Clatsop Courthouse at **P.O. Box 835, Astoria, Oregon 97103**
- Scan this form and email it to: Katie.Danen@ojd.state.or.us
- Use the "Email" button on the last page of this form to email it directly to Katie Danen

Your Name: _____

Date: _____ Age: _____

Date of next court hearing: _____

Names of people who helped you fill out this form: _____

After you finish reading this please initial below to confirm your understanding of the following points:

Under the law, information you write here will be given to your parents if they are involved in the case, the lawyers in the case, and your case worker. If you don't want to share information with all of these people, talk to your lawyer.

Initial
Here

You have the right to be told of your hearing dates and to be driven to your hearings. Your lawyer and your caseworker should talk to you about your rights. You may contact the Foster Care Ombudsman to report problems at 1.855.840.6036 or fco.info@state.or.us.

Initial
Here



A Way for Teens to Communicate

Living Conditions

1. Are you happy where you live? Yes No

If no, why not?

I want to live with my mom.

2. Do you feel safe where you live? Yes No

If no, why not?

But I'd rather be at my moms.

Please explain:

I need my clothes, my phone, my things - all my stuff is at my moms.

6. Your case worker has made a case plan for you and your family. Have you read your case plan? Yes No

7. Were you able to choose two people to be on your case planning team?

Yes No

If no, why not?

8. Where would you like to live permanently and why?

with my mom. She is my family and I can keep myself safe there.

9. What do you like to do in your spare time?



A Way for Teens to Communicate

15. What is your biggest worry about how things are going?

my biggest worry is my mom having to know she can't get me back.



Preparing for Adulthood

A **Comprehensive Transition Plan** is a written plan to help you get ready to live on

my biggest worry is my mom having to know she can't get me back.

- a. Do you know about your education options after high school? Yes No
- b. Do you know how to get a job? Yes No
- c. Do you know how to find & pay for a place to live? Yes No
- d. Do you know how to get medical services? Yes No

Regarding preparing for adulthood, what could you use help with?



Court Hearings

19. Have you been to any of your court hearings? Yes No
If not, why?

20. Would you like to speak to the judge? Yes No
If you cannot go to your hearing, what would you like the judge to know?

Thank you for completing this form!

