

Governor's Advocacy Office and the Foster Children's Bill of Rights

DHS NOTICE AND PRACTICE OF CIVIL RIGHTS

WHAT ARE CIVIL RIGHTS?
The U.S. Constitution and other laws give every person certain rights. These rights are called civil rights. They include the right to be treated equally and to be free from discrimination.

WHAT IS A PROTECTED CLASS?
A protected class is a group of people who are protected by law from discrimination. These groups include:

- Race
- Color
- Religion
- Sex
- Age
- Disability
- Sexual orientation
- Political beliefs

WHAT IS DISCRIMINATION AT DHS?
Discrimination is treating someone differently because of their race, color, religion, sex, age, disability, sexual orientation, or political beliefs.

WHAT DOES DHS HELP WITH COMMUNICATION?
DHS provides language assistance services to help you understand and communicate with DHS staff.

WHAT DOES ACCESS TO DHS SERVICES AND PROGRAMS MEAN?
DHS provides services and programs to help you meet your needs and achieve your goals.

Customer Service/Privacy Complaint or Report of Discrimination

Help completing this form, you may contact any DHS office.

Please print clearly: Name of person with the complaint: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____ Date of birth: _____

Phone/TTY number: _____ Last 4 digits of Social Security number: _____

Reason for your complaint (check all that apply):
 I received poor customer service.
 I was discriminated against because of:
 Disability Sexual orientation* Political beliefs**
 Race Color or national origin Other: _____
 *Protected against political belief discrimination.

Who was involved? _____ When did the incident happen? Date/Time: _____

Describe your complaint (What suggestions do you have?) _____

For DHS use only
 Received by (print name): _____ Date: _____
 Governor's Advocacy Office, address on page 1
 Complaint manager: _____

DHS 0170 (7/16)

OREGON FOSTER CHILDREN'S SIBLING BILL OF RIGHTS I HAVE THE RIGHT:

- To live in the same home as my siblings if possible.
- To see and talk to my siblings in person, through letters, by phone, email or in other electronic ways.
- To help make a plan that lets how my siblings and I will see and talk to each other in a natural setting with privacy.
- To be able to talk and visit with my siblings.
- To be told why I cannot see with, talk to or see my siblings if I am not able to.
- To have help with transportation so that I can see and talk to my siblings.
- To live with foster parents who are trained on the importance of sibling relationships.

TO MAKE DECISIONS FOR MYSELF:
 To be provided with an appropriate educational opportunity and schooling to prepare me for college.
 To have the opportunity to participate in activities that are important to my identity, such as sports or arts.
 To receive extra help and tutoring if I am struggling in my school or educational program.
 To make choices about my career education, including placement or college prep and school where the best education is available.
 To receive age appropriate information and assistance with transitioning to college or a career education.

TO LIVE WITH MY SIBLINGS:
 To work with coworkers who are trained on the importance of sibling relationships.
 To have continued sibling contact and visits encouraged whenever my siblings and I are going to be in a partnership or adoption.
 To be told when my siblings who are in foster care experience life events including emergencies or changes in their living situations.
 To report that my attorney advocate for me and represent my wishes for seeing and talking with my siblings.

TO BE INFORMED:
 To be informed of my rights to a foster child placed in the home of the foster parent that may jeopardize the health or safety of the foster parent.
 To be informed of any condition that relates solely to a foster child placed in the home of the foster parent that may jeopardize the health or safety of the foster parent.
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FOSTER PARENT BILL OF RIGHTS

Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:

A FOSTER PARENT HAS THE RIGHT TO:

- Be treated with dignity, respect and trust as a member of a team, care and planning for a foster child placed in the home of the foster parent.
- Receive support services, as resources permit, from the Department of Human Services that are designed to assist in the care of the foster child placed in the home of the foster parent.
- Be informed of any condition that relates solely to a foster child placed in the home of the foster parent that may jeopardize the health or safety of the foster parent.
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Presented by: Zachary Gehringer, GAO Administrator and Darin Mancuso, Foster Care Ombuds

The Ombuds

Swedish word- a citizen representative within government or administrative body

- Confidential
- Active Listener
- Problem Solver
- Empowering
- Guiding
- Investigations
- Rule Compliance
- ORS 182.500 - mandatory report to Governor, obligation to cooperate in good faith



October 2019 Governor's Proclamation of 'Ombuds Day'

GAO History

- 1993 – Governor Roberts appoints Ombuds to assist citizens with state services
- 1993 – Legislature creates the role of Children’s Advocate (SB 1042)
- 1996 – the Children’s Justice Task force advocated for moving Children’s Advocate responsibilities to GAO, completed via interagency agreement.
- 2002-2004 – Customer Service and Discrimination complaint process developed for the agency, overseen by staff in GAO
- 2003 – Legislature permanently moves Children’s Advocate to GAO (HB 2522).
- 2014 - Foster Children’s Bill of Rights created by SB 123, Foster Care Ombuds hired to receive complaints.
- Future - ? ? ?

GAO Today

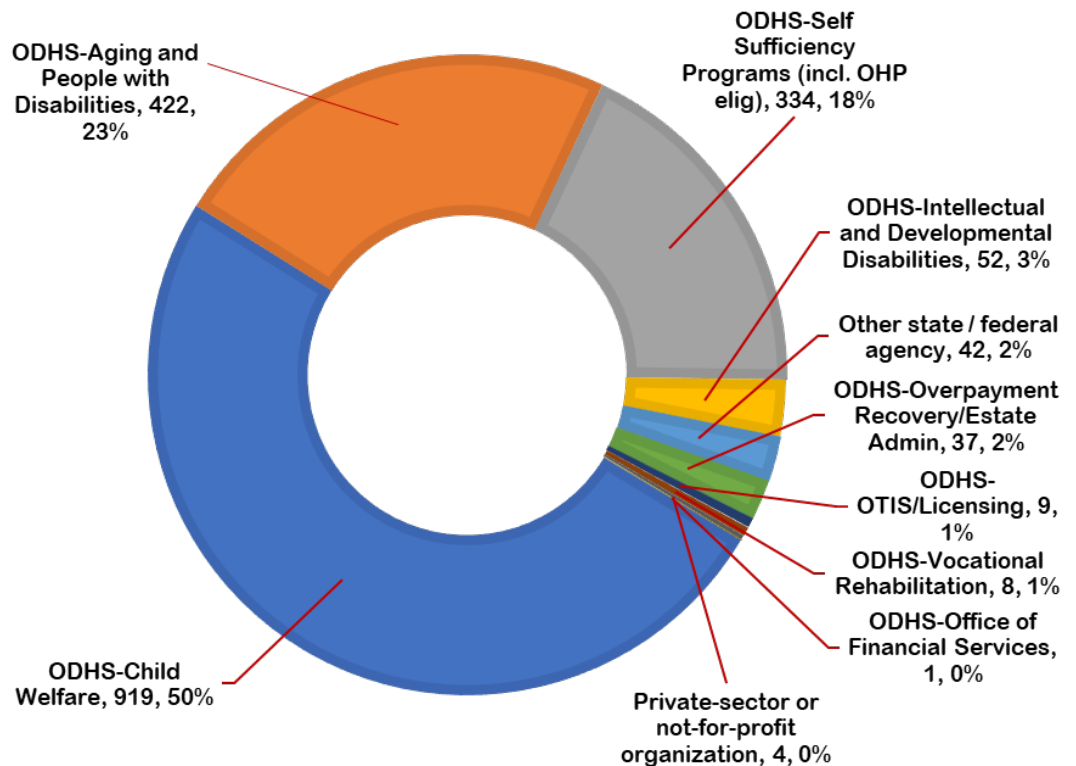
The GAO helps affected parties work through questions, concerns, or complaints related to ODHS services or departmental action. The office is functionally independent of the programs under its review, and reports regularly to the ODHS director and Office of the Governor on the status of the complaints. resolution.

- GAO has an Administrator, Formal complaint Coordinator/Civil Rights Investigator, Foster Care Ombuds, and 6 ODHS Ombuds, and a Screener**
- ODHS Ombuds respond to complaints and concerns for all ODHS programs, including Child Welfare**
- Current GAO team members have broad and diverse professional backgrounds, including ODHS field experience, juvenile justice, victim's advocacy, mental health fields and more.**

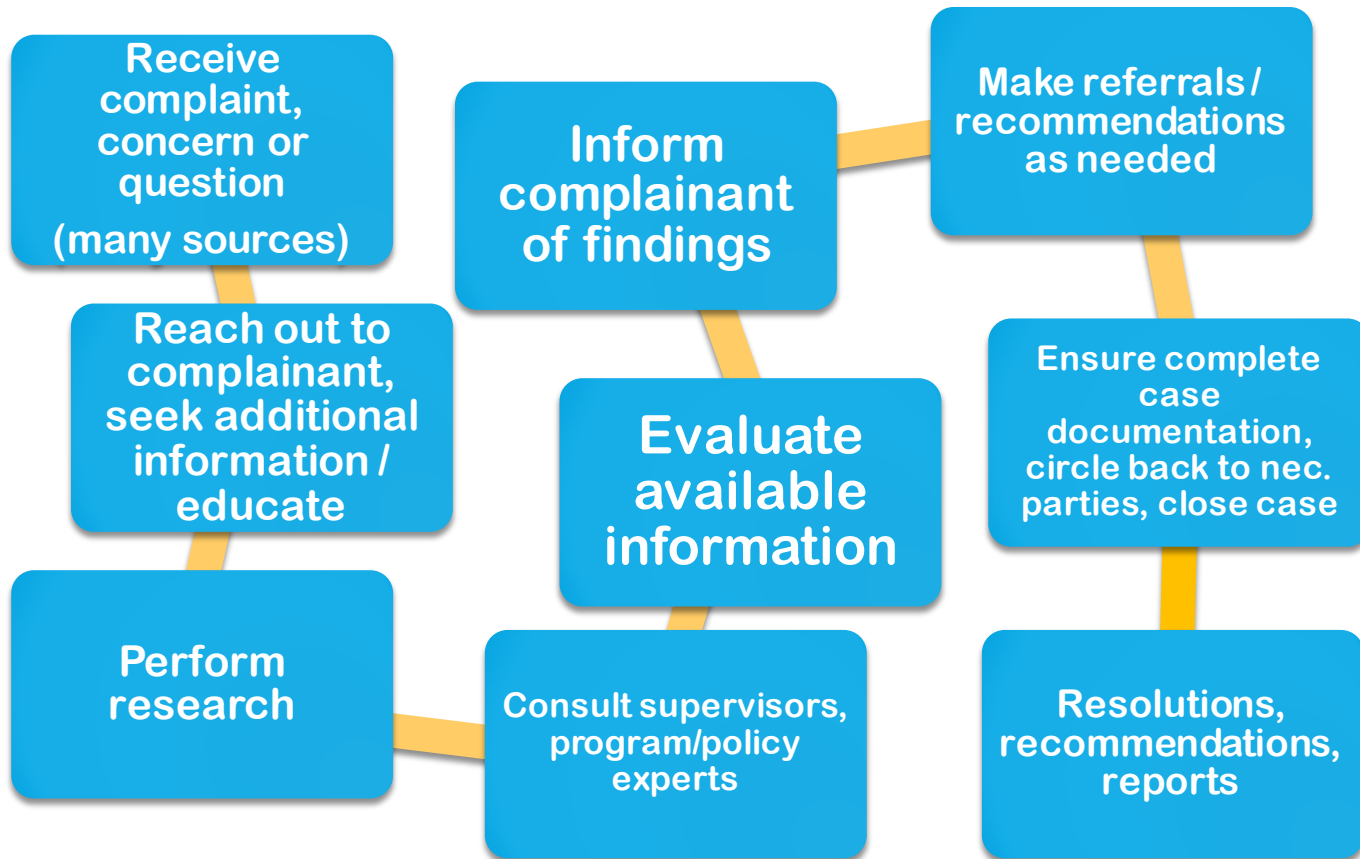
Activity of the Governor's Advocacy Office and Ombuds

- Investigate all ODHS matters on behalf of the Governor's Office and ODHS Director
- Full access to OR-Kids and other ODHS systems
- Open, respond, investigate, track and report out on all complaints
- Regularly meet with ODHS leadership, including Directors of programs and Human Resources

GAO CASES CLOSED FY 2021, N=1,828
(excluding cases closed as "Information Only")



A 'Typical' GAO Case



Important elements along the way: confidentiality of complainant, reasons for GAO inclusion of supervisors, follow up with staff at the conclusion of our work

Outcomes of GAO cases

The outcome of a GAO case varies significantly depending on our findings- the most likely are (in no particular order)

- Quarterly reporting of high-level info and trends
- Recommendations to local management or program leadership
- Letter of findings to agency or program leadership
- No action taken – GAO does not find the agency acted outside requirements
- Referral to more appropriate office (other agency/jurisdiction, ORCAH, Human Resources)
- Sharing positive feedback: DHS 171 comment form, GAO 'Thank You' card



Customer Service and Privacy Complaints or Report of Discrimination (OARs & process)

407-005-0030 Report of Discrimination and Other Remedies Available for Alleged Discrimination

407-005-0100 Purpose and Scope

407-005-0105 Definitions

407-005-0110 Customer Service Complaint Procedure

407-005-0115 Resolution of Customer Service Complaints

407-005-0120 Retaliation Prohibited



CF 1019A- Foster Parent Bill of Rights

- Part of ORS since 2006 (ORS 418.648)
- GAO added as contact in 2016

Be It Enacted *by the People of the State of Oregon:*

FOSTER PARENT BILL OF RIGHTS

A FOSTER PARENT HAS THE RIGHT TO:

1. Be treated with dignity, respect and trust as a member of a team, including respect for the family values and routines of the foster parent.
2. Be included as a valued member of a team that provides care and planning for a foster child placed in the home of the foster parent.
3. Receive support services, as resources permit, from the Department of Human Services that are designed to assist in the care of the foster child placed in the home of the foster parent.
4. Be informed of any condition that relates solely to a foster child placed in the home of the foster parent that may jeopardize the health or safety of the foster parent or other members of the home or alter the manner in which foster care should be provided to the foster child. The information shall include complete access to written reports, psychological evaluations and diagnoses that relate solely to a foster child placed in the home of the foster parent provided that confidential information given to a foster parent must be kept confidential by the foster parent, except as necessary to promote or to protect the health and welfare of the foster child and the community.
5. Have input into a permanency plan for a foster child placed in the home of the foster parent.
6. Receive assistance from the department in dealing with family loss and separation when the foster child leaves the home of the foster parent.
7. Be informed of all policies and procedures of the department that relate to the role of the foster parent.
8. Be informed of how to receive services and to have access to department personnel or service providers 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
9. Initiate an inactive referral status for a reasonable period of time, not to exceed 12 months, to allow a foster parent relief from caring for foster children.
10. Not be discriminated against on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, national origin, age or disability.
11. Be notified of the foster parent's right to limited participation in proceedings in the juvenile court and provided with an explanation of that right.



I CAN CONTACT THE GOVERNORS ADVOCACY OFFICE AT 800-442-5238
OR EMAIL DHS.INFO@STATE.OR.US TO DISCUSS MY CONCERNS.



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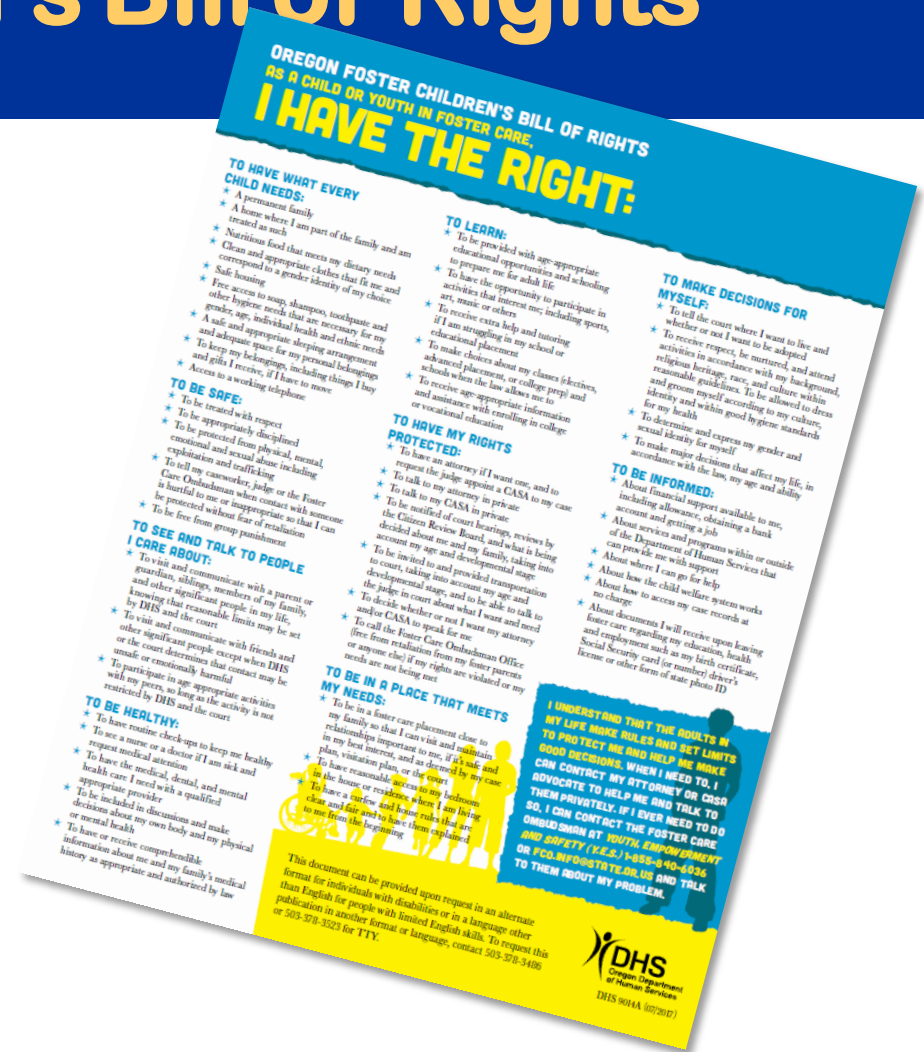
ORS 418.648 — Enacted on January 1, 2006



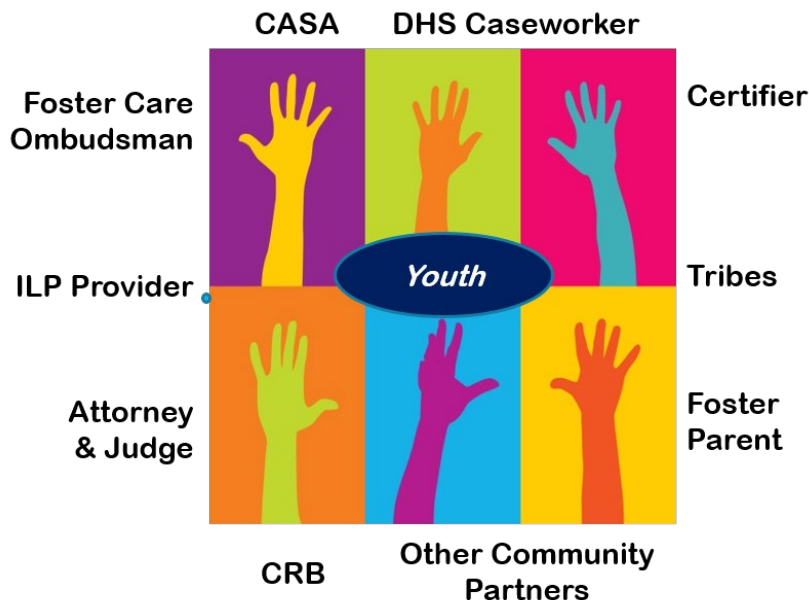
CF 1019A (Rev. 01/2016)

Foster Care Ombuds and the Foster Children's Bill of Rights

- Drafted by OFYC with input from 100 foster youth
- SB 123 Created Foster Children Bill of Rights
- Every child in foster care gets a copy
- Provides every teen in care a “how to” packet of information
- Creates a position at the Governor’s Advocacy Office for a Foster Care Ombuds



Senate Bill 123 (2013)



- Created ORS 418.200-202 which mandates certain Rights (see attachment) and also the creation of the **Bill of Rights**
- Added “teeth” to existing Rights of Children Policy
- Law went into effect January 1, 2014

Oregon Revised Statutes

Chapter 418 — Child Welfare Services

2013 EDITION

OREGON FOSTER CHILDREN'S BILL OF RIGHTS

- **418.200 Definitions.** As used in ORS 418.200 to 418.202, “foster child” means a child who is in the **legal custody of the Department of Human Services** pursuant to the provisions of ORS chapter 418, 419B or 419C and **who is or was placed in substitute care with a foster parent, a child-caring agency as defined in ORS 418.205 or an independent residence facility established or certified** under ORS 418.475. [2013 c.515 §1]
- **418.201 Legislative intent.** It is the intent of the Legislative Assembly that each foster child have certain essential rights, including but not limited to the following:

Oregon Revised Statutes

Chapter 418 — Child Welfare Services

2013 EDITION

- (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.**

DHS 9020 - "Younger Child" BoR Poster

OREGON FOSTER CHILDREN'S BILL OF RIGHTS I HAVE THE RIGHT TO:



S SAFE HOME WHERE
I FEEL PROTECTED



A ATTEND SCHOOL, SPORTS,
CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES



F FAMILY – LIVE WITH
A FAMILY THAT
CARES ABOUT ME
AND PROTECTS ME



E EAT AND HAVE HEALTHY
FOOD AT EVERY MEAL



T THINGS – TO HAVE MY
OWN THINGS (TOYS,
CLOTHES, BLANKET...)

Y YES, I CAN ALWAYS CONTACT MY
ATTORNEY, CASEWORKER, CASA
OR FOSTER CARE OMBUDSMAN IF
I HAVE QUESTIONS OR PROBLEMS



WHO CAN I CALL?

If you wish to make a call and need an adult to help, you can ask a foster parent or caregiver at the home, a teacher, a church member or another adult friend that you trust.

Call or email the Foster Care Ombudsman at the Youth, Empowerment and Safety (Y.E.S) Line at 1-855-840-6036 or FCO.info@state.or.us.

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Oregon Revised Statutes

Chapter 418 — Child Welfare Services

2013 EDITION

(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 ORS 351.293;
- (e) How to obtain a copy of the foster child's **credit report**, if any;

Oregon Revised Statutes Chapter 418 — Child Welfare Services 2013 EDITION

- 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.



DHS 9018- “How Do I...?” brochure

WHEN I LEAVE FOSTER CARE, WHAT DOCUMENTS SHOULD I HAVE?

Upon leaving foster care you may request a copy of your Birth Certificate, Social Security Card (or number), Health insurance information, medical records, and a Driver's License or other form of state photo ID.

HOW DO I MAKE SURE I AM INCLUDED IN PLANNING FOR MY FUTURE?

It is very important that you take part in planning your future. It is, after all, your life. Talk to your caseworker and your team (including your foster parents) about your wishes, goals and any concerns you may have. Being involved in your own transition planning and knowing what your resources and options are helps your ideas, wants and needs be heard. Your team and supportive adults can assist you in reaching your goals. When you are 14 years old or older, you should go over the goals on your transition plan (also known as the T2) every six months until you leave foster care. For additional information, go to www.dhs.state.or.us/policy/childwelfare/manual_15-8235.pdf

www.dhs.state.or.us/caf/safety_model/procedure_manual/appendices/cht-app1-18.pdf

www.oregon.gov/dhs/children/fostercare/docs/transitiontoolkitchecklist.pdf and

www.fosterclub.com_transition/article/transition-toolkit

DID YOU KNOW THAT YOU HAVE CERTAIN RIGHTS WHILE YOU ARE IN FOSTER CARE, AND THERE IS SOMEONE IN THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE TO HELP YOU IF YOU HAVE PROBLEMS? Look for the “Oregon Foster Children’s Bill of Rights” posted in your foster parent’s home or residential facility. That poster will review your rights while in foster care.

Your caseworker will give you a copy of the bill of rights within 60 days of your placement in foster/substitute care. You and your caseworker will review the bill of rights.

Here are some other resources to contact if you have concerns about your care or that your rights or needs are not being respected:

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

Foster Care Ombudsman Office: www.oregon.gov/dhs/aboutdhs/Pages/fostercare-ombudsman.aspx

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR RIGHTS, CONTACT THE FOSTER CARE OMBUDSMAN OFFICE OR THE Y.E.S. LINE:

Email: fo.inf@state.or.us

Phone: 1-855-840-6036

Fax: 503-378-6592

Mail: 500 Summer St., N.E., R-17
Salem, OR 97301



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OREGON FOSTER CHILDREN'S BILL OF RIGHTS AS A CHILD OR YOUTH IN FOSTER CARE, HOW DO I...?



DID YOU KNOW THAT AS A YOUTH IN FOSTER CARE, YOU HAVE CERTAIN RIGHTS?

We hope that whether you are about to be placed or have been in foster care for a while, you will find the information helpful. The pamphlet gives you some how to's and necessary information to help you with your transition to adulthood. You will also find some helpful links and resources.

Your caseworker and other members of your team can also help. Your “team” may consist of your caseworker, CASA, attorney, foster parent, ILP Provider, or any other Supportive Adult you would like to include.

HOW DO I GET A BANK ACCOUNT WHILE I AM IN FOSTER CARE?

Rules can really vary so it is best to check with your local bank or credit union in your community. For example, some credit unions may allow a youth to open a savings account at age 12 or older with or without a parent's or guardian's permission; you must have acceptable identification (see below for examples) and a minimum deposit. The amount of deposit can vary depending on the type of account.

Your caseworker and other members of your team can help you by making sure you have at least the following documents:

- ★ Your Social Security card with matching name and number;
- ★ Your birth certificate;
- ★ A driver's license, other form of Oregon identification or a lawful permanent resident (LPR) card.

For additional information and tips on managing your money wisely, budgeting, credit and other financial advice:

Teens can check out: www.handsontbanking.org/htdocs/en/

Young adults can check out: www.handsontbanking.org/htdocs/en/yl/

HOW DO I GET A DRIVER'S LICENSE IF I AM UNDER 18 AND IN FOSTER CARE?

Your caseworker and team should agree that you are ready for this big responsibility. You will find a great tool to help you with that decision at www.dhs.state.or.us/caf/safety_model/procedure_manual/cht/cht_section17.pdf

Here's another handy resource to use with your caseworker: www.dhs.state.or.us/caf/safety_model/procedure_manual/appendices/cht-app1-28.pdf

If you are in the care and custody of DHS, you will need permission from the agency (DHS program manager or branch designee- usually the branch manager) to get your driver's permit and/or license. The following link has all of the requirements for obtaining a driver's permit or driver's license: www.oregon.gov/odo/dmv/teen/pages/license.aspx

In addition, here is a link to a DMV guide that helps walk you through the process: www.dhs.state.or.us/caf/safety_model/procedure_manual/appendices/cht-app1-28.pdf

You can develop the safe driving skills to get a driver's license by taking a driver's education course. Financial assistance may be available to help with those costs. However, you must be covered by insurance on the car you will be driving and DHS is **not** responsible for insurance premiums.

IF I WANT TO, CAN I STAY IN FOSTER CARE AFTER TURNING 18?

It may be possible to remain in care after you turn age 18. Talk to your caseworker and your team (including the judge) about your options. Your own participation in planning for your transition and future will help ensure your ideas and dreams are being heard and can receive assistance and supports to reach your educational, independent living skills and housing goals. To access services after you leave foster care, you will need to go to the local DHS Child Welfare office and request “voluntary services.”

HOW DO I ACCESS THE TUITION AND FEE WAIVER?

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at www.fafsa.ed.gov is used as the application for Oregon's Foster Youth Tuition and Fee Waiver. To qualify, you must meet both foster care and higher education requirements.

For the foster care eligibility requirements, you must:

- ★ Have been in foster care under the care and custody of Oregon's DHS Child Welfare or one of Oregon's nine federally recognized tribes' child welfare for at least 180 days after age 14; AND
- ★ Not leave foster care and custody prior to your 16th birthday.

For the higher education requirements, you must:

- ★ Enroll at one of Oregon's public colleges or universities for undergraduate studies.

- ★ Qualify for financial aid;
- ★ Complete 30 hours of volunteer activities to maintain eligibility for the waiver in year two and the following years.

Note: You need to enroll prior to age 25. If you are still in the program at age 25, you can continue receiving the waiver until you have met the equivalent of four years of undergraduate studies (as long as you are making satisfactory progress).

For additional information, go to www.oregon.gov/dhs/children/fostercare/ILP/Pages/FinancialAid.aspx

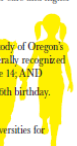
HOW DO I GET A COPY OF MY CREDIT REPORT?

Talk to your caseworker and your team. Federal law requires DHS to provide credit reports to you as a youth in DHS's legal custody beginning at age 14 and every year after that until you are no longer in the legal custody of DHS. DHS is also required to help youth in foster care identify and resolve any issues on your credit report. Be sure you have a copy of your Social Security card and birth certificate; the credit bureau require this identification to help resolve any credit issues. For more information about youth credit and resources, go to www.aecf.org/?media/Topic/Child%20Welfare%20Permanency/Other/YouthandCredit/YouthandCredit.pdf

HOW DO I GET MEDICAL, DENTAL, VISION AND MENTAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES OR OTHER TREATMENT (INCLUDING SERVICES AND TREATMENTS AVAILABLE WITHOUT THE CONSENT OF MY PARENT, FOSTER PARENT OR CASEWORKER)?

If you are in foster care, you have an Oregon Health Plan (OHP) medical card. OHP covers these services. If you are 14 years of age or older, you are legally **allowed** to obtain some medical treatment without your parent's or caseworker's consent. However, it is a good idea to talk to your caseworker and/or foster parent about any questions or concerns you may have. For more information, go to **OHA Minor Rights Access and Consent to Health Care Guide and ORS 109.610-109.685 (Rights of Minors)** & <http://public.health.oregon.gov/HealthyPeopleFamilies/Youth/Documents/MinorConsent2017.pdf> & www.oregon.gov/hhs/wbdf/chapter_109_rights_of_minors.pdf

If you are 18 or older and signing out of Oregon state or tribal foster care, you are eligible for the Former Foster Care Youth Medical (FFCYM) Program that ends at age 26. For more information, go to www.oregon.gov/dhs/children/fostercare/ILP/Pages/Resources.aspx (Health Care menu option).



Oregon Revised Statutes Chapter 418 — Child Welfare Services 2013 EDITION

- (5) With respect to a foster child's rights under the federal and state constitutions, laws, including case law, rules and regulations:
- (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

TO HAVE MY RIGHTS PROTECTED:

- * To have an attorney if I want one, and to request the judge appoint a CASA to my case
- * To talk to my attorney in private
- * To talk to my CASA in private
- * To be notified of court hearings, reviews by the Citizen Review Board, and what is being decided about me and my family, taking into account my age and developmental stage
- * To be invited to and provided transportation to court, taking into account my age and developmental stage, and to be able to talk to the judge in court about what I want and need
- * To decide whether or not I want my attorney and/or CASA 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 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 to access my child welfare system works
- * About documents I will receive upon leaving foster care regarding my education, health and employment such as my birth certificate, Social Security card (or number) driver's license or other form of state photo ID

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

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 TO HELP ME AND TALK TO THEM PRIVATELY. IF I EVER NEED TO DO SO, I CAN TALK TO THE FOSTER CARE OMBUDSMAN ON THE YOUTH EMPOWERMENT AND SAFETY (Y.E.S.) LINE

MY 1-855-940-6076 OR FCO.INFO@STATE.OR.US ABOUT MY PROBLEM.

Foster Child/Youth's Name _____

Child/Youth's Signature or Acknowledgment Rights Have Been Explained _____

ORCIDIS Case Number & Person ID _____

DHS Caseworker or Supportive Adult's Name _____

Date Rights Explained to Foster Child/Youth _____

DHS Caseworker or Supportive Adult's Signature _____

DHS 9018 (07/2012)

DHS
Oregon Department of Human Services

Oregon Revised Statutes

Chapter 418 — Child Welfare Services

2013 EDITION

- (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.** [2013 c.515 §2]

DHS 9015- Important Contact Information Sheet

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): _____

Attorney _____ Phone/email _____

* Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) _____ Phone/email _____

* Independent Living Program (ILP) provider _____ Phone/email _____

Local Citizen Review Board (CRB) Coordinator _____ Phone/email _____

Y.E.S. (Youth, Empowerment & Safety) line _____ **1-855-840-6036**
Foster Care Ombudsman _____ **FCO.Info@state.or.us**
Phone/email _____

IF IN A FOSTER CARE AGENCY OR RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM

Licensing staff _____ Phone/email _____

IF AN ICWA CASE

Tribal affiliation _____ Tribal worker _____ Phone/email _____

OTHER SUPPORTIVE ADULTS AND ADVOCATES

_____ Phone/email _____

_____ Phone/email _____

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

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

This document can be provided upon request in an alternate format for individuals with disabilities or in a language other than English for people with limited English skills. To request this publication in another format or language, contact 503-378-3486 or 503-378-3523 for TTY.

Oregon Revised Statutes

Chapter 418 — Child Welfare Services

2013 EDITION

418.202 Oregon Foster Children's Bill of Rights; rules.

- (1) The Department of Human Services shall adopt rules establishing the Oregon Foster Children's Bill of Rights, specifying the rights of foster children consistent with the provisions of ORS 418.201.
- (2) **The department shall periodically review the rules** establishing the Oregon Foster Children's Bill of Rights to ensure that the bill of rights complies with the principles and requirements set forth in ORS 418.201. The department shall **promote the participation of current and former foster children in the development of the rules** constituting the Oregon Foster Children's Bill of Rights and the development of state foster care and child welfare policy. [2013 c.515 §3]

CF-0262 - Foster Children's Sibling Bill of Rights

OREGON FOSTER CHILDREN'S SIBLING BILL OF RIGHTS I HAVE THE RIGHT:

- ★ To live in the same home as my siblings if possible
- ★ To see and talk to my siblings in person, through letters, by phone, email or in other electronic ways
- ★ To help make a plan that lists how I will see and talk to my siblings and I will see and talk to each other
- ★ To be able to talk and visit with my siblings in a natural setting with privacy
- ★ To be told why I cannot live with, talk to or see my siblings if I am not able to
- ★ To have help with transportation so I can see and talk to my siblings
- ★ To live with foster parents who are told on the importance of sibling relationships
- ★ To work with caseworkers who are trained on the importance of sibling relationships
- ★ To have continued sibling contact and visits encouraged whenever my siblings are able



IF I HAVE QUESTIONS OR NEED HELP, I CAN ASK AN ADULT I TRUST OR CALL THE FOSTER CARE OMBUDSMAN AND SAFETY (Y.E.S.), 1-855-840-6036.

You can get this document in other languages, large print, braille or a format you prefer. Contact 503-378-3486. We accept all relay calls or you can dial 711.

OREGON FOSTER CHILDREN'S SIBLING BILL OF RIGHTS I HAVE THE RIGHT:

- ★ To live with my brothers and sisters in foster care if possible
- ★ To have the adults in my life help me stay connected to my brothers and sisters if we are living or going to live in different families
- ★ To help make a plan about how I will see and talk to my brothers and sisters
- ★ To be told why I cannot live with, talk to or see my brothers and sisters if I am not able to



- ★ To have foster parents and caseworkers who know how important my brothers and sisters are to me
- ★ To be told if something changes with my brothers and sisters
- ★ To have my attorney tell the other adults in my life how I want to talk to and see my brothers and sisters



IF I HAVE QUESTIONS OR NEED HELP, I CAN ASK AN ADULT I TRUST OR CALL THE FOSTER CARE OMBUDSMAN AT YOUTH, EMPOWERMENT AND SAFETY (Y.E.S.), 1-855-840-6036 OR FCO.INFO@STATE.OR.US.

You can get this document in other languages, large print, braille or a format you prefer. Contact 503-378-3486. We accept all relay calls or you can dial 711.

DHS
Oregon Department of Human Services

CF 0262 (12/2017)

To be safe

- To be treated with respect
- To be appropriately Disciplined (See Handout- 413-200-0358)
- To be free from group punishment
- Access to a working telephone
- To tell my caseworker, Judge or FC Ombuds when contact with someone is hurtful to me

To see and talk to people I care about

- To visit and communicate with parent(s), siblings, people in my life, knowing that reasonable limits may be set by ODHS and the Court if perceived as unsafe or emotionally harmful
- Participate in activities with my peers as long as not restricted by ODHS or the Court


To have my rights protected

- Have an attorney if I want one and request the judge appoint a CASA to my case
- Talk to my attorney and/or CASA in private
- To be notified of court hearings, reviews by the CRB and what is being decided about me and my family
- To be invited to attend court and talk to the judge in court about what I want and need
- To call the FC Ombuds office (free from retaliation from my fp's or anyone else) if my rights are being violated or my needs are not being met



To be in a place that meets my needs

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



“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 Ombuds at Youth, Empowerment and Safety (Y.E.S.) 1-855-840-6036 and talk to them about my problem.”

Contact Information

Governor's Advocacy Office

Toll free: 1-800-442-5238

(503) 945-6904

OHSO.info@dhsosha.state.or.us

GAO.CR@dhsosha.state.or.us

Foster Care Ombuds

Y.E.S. Foster Care Hotline 1-855-840-6036

FCO.info@dhsosha.state.or.us

Zack: zachary.p.gehringer@state.or.us

Darin: darin.mancuso@state.or.us

OWL site:

<https://dhsosha.sharepoint.com/teams/Hub-ODHS-GAO>

Public-facing website:

<https://www.oregon.gov/dhs/aboutdhs/pages/gao.aspx>