Foster Care Youth Rights and Responsibilities

- Be treated respectfully.
- Help make decisions about your life.
- Have what is happening explained to you in a way that you can understand.
- Visit regularly with your parents and other family members, unless limited by the court.
- Have a say in the long-term plan for where you are going to live and understand what that plan is.
- Know the people involved in your case, what they do and how to contact them.
- Be able to attend school, go to doctors, dentists, therapists and other services you need.
- If you are 14 years or older, you can go to court and case reviews. You may also invite other people who are important to you to come to the reviews.
- Be able to visit the foster family or group care home before you move there.
- Have a say in the services you get and have a copy of your case plan. Your plan should be reviewed with you every six months by your caseworker and others that are involved in your case.
- Get food, shelter, clothing, and health care during your placement from your foster parents or group home staff.
- Be treated the same as the other children in the placement – either by foster parents or group home staff.
- Keep (or have kept safe for you) money that you earn or receive as a gift or allowance.
- Know what is expected of you and what your rights are.
- A lawyer – sometimes called a guardian ad litem – to be with you at court hearings and to talk to when you have questions about court issues.
- A reasonable amount of privacy.
- Chances to be involved in fun activities – like soccer or dance.
- An opportunity to finish high school.
- Visit with your worker on a regular basis – should be at least monthly.
- If still in high school, or working on getting your GED when turning 18. You may request to remain voluntarily remain in foster care and continue to receive services.

Created by the Iowa Youth Connections Council