

You have Family Rights too!

- *If the judge says it okay, you can have visits with your family.*
- *You can have visits with siblings, even if they are not in foster care.*
- *Visits with your siblings cannot be withheld as a form of punishment.*

Talk to your foster mom or dad about a good time for you to use some of these Rights. If somebody does not follow these Rights, let someone know; you won't get in trouble for telling. You can tell:

- *Your caseworker;*
- *Your guardian ad litem or CASA;*
- *Your attorney;*
- *Your foster mom or foster dad;*
- *An adult that helps your foster mom or dad take care of you in your foster home;*
- *The judge.*



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Please Visit the DCFS website at:
<http://www.dcfs.state.nv.us/>



Nevada's Foster Child Bill of Rights



**Nevada Department of
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Services**

Nevada's Foster Child Bill of Rights

Kids that are in foster care have rights. These rights are written in the law. Rights are kind of like rules about how foster kids need to be treated while they are in foster care. Here are your rights:



You have the right to live:

- *In a home where you can feel safe and happy;*
- *Where you feel that your foster family likes you;*
- *You have enough clothes and warm clothes for winter;*
- *And you get enough food to eat and the food is good for you.*

You have the right to be:

- *In a foster home with your brothers and sisters if it is okay with the judge;*
- *Able to stay with a member of your family like a grandmother & grandfather, aunt & uncle or other family member (if they are approved by the foster care people) or, when the judge thinks it is safe, to stay in your own home.*

You have the right to:

- *Have your foster mom & dad be polite and nice to you, even when they are mad or upset;*
- *Write letters and send them in the mail and to open letters you get in the mail;*
- *Go, or not go, to church, temple or other house of God or faith;*
- *Keep your own money;*
- *Play with other children and do things that are fun in other places than at your foster home;*
- *Talk to your caseworker or other adults who are helping you in foster care every month; and talk to them alone if you want;*
- *Have the judge or your caseworker tell you what is going to happen next for you and your family. And to have them listen to you when you tell them what you think about it;*
- *Have your caseworker tell you before*

you have to move to a different foster home or when something else is going to change;

- *Have someone keep a picture and other information about you, so it can help them find you if you get lost;*
- *Learn how to take care of yourself like an adult once you are 15-years-old or older.*

You have the Medical and Health right to:

- *See a doctor to make sure you are okay and that you stay healthy;*
- *Not take medicine that makes you feel bad.*

You have school rights. You should be able to:

- *Go to school or preschool when you are old enough;*
- *Keep doing after school activities or sports like you did before you were in foster care;*
- *Have someone help you when your school work is too hard;*
- *Have no adults at school tell anyone that you are in foster care;*
- *Find out how you can go to college when you are in high school.*

- ★ *Go to school every day*
- ★ *Attend after school and extracurricular scholastic activities that you were enrolled in before being placed in foster care*
- ★ *Get help with school if you need it*
- ★ *Not be identified as a foster child to other students by any one employed at your school*
- ★ *Have access to information about educational opportunities like scholarships for college and vocational school (if you are 16 years or older)*

If you believe that your rights have been violated or that you are being treated differently because of your race, ethnicity, ancestry, national origin, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, mental or physical disability or exposure to HIV, you have the right to have any violations resolved. You can talk about this with:

- ★ *Your foster care provider*
- ★ *An employee of the foster home*
- ★ *An employee of the juvenile court*
- ★ *Your guardian ad litem and or CASA*
- ★ *Your attorney*
- ★ *Your case worker or other employee of the child welfare agency*

Your foster care provider may impose reasonable restrictions on the time, place and manner in which you can exercise your rights if they determine that any restrictions are necessary to keep the order, discipline or safety of the foster home.

As enrolled into Nevada law by Assembly Bill 154 effective October 1, 2011



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Nevada's Foster Youth BILL OF RIGHTS



Nevada Department of
Health and Human Services
Division of Child & Family
Services

The State of Nevada, Division of Child and Family Services recognizes the following rights of children and youth in foster care. These rights are intended to guide the child welfare agencies and their providers in the delivery of care and services to foster youth with the commitment to permanency, safety and well being. This Bill of Rights was developed in collaboration with Nevada LIFE, the state-wide youth advisory board.



You have the right to live:

- ★ *In a safe, healthy, stable and comfortable environment*
- ★ *In a home best suited to meet all your needs*
- ★ *Have adequate and appropriate clothes*
- ★ *Have access to healthy food*

You have the right to be placed:

- ★ *In a home with your siblings whenever possible;*
- ★ *In a home of a relative or stay in your own home if safe and appropriate*

You have the right to:

- ★ *Be treated with dignity and respect*
- ★ *Be free from corporal punishment, such as spanking or hitting*
- ★ *Not be locked in any room, physically restrained or be isolated*
- ★ *Be free from unreasonable searches of your personal stuff or other invasions of your privacy*
- ★ *Send and receive unopened mail (unless a judge says someone else can open your mail)*
- ★ *Go to religious services and activities of your choice or refuse to attend religious services*
- ★ *Maintain a bank account and manage your own personal money*
- ★ *Participate in extracurricular, cultural and personal enrichment activities and to have access to transportation, if realistic, for these activities*
- ★ *Make contact with case workers, attorneys, probation officers, CASAs, and anyone else involved in your case (openly or confidentially)*
- ★ *To talk to your caseworker at least once a month*

- ★ *Participate and be included in your case plan and attend court hearings*
- ★ *Be told about any changes in your case plan or placement*
- ★ *Complete an identification kit which includes your photo and other identifying details you would like to include that will be kept in your file by the child welfare agency, please ask your caseworker for more information*
- ★ *To attend Independent Living Program classes (if you are 15 or older)*
- ★ *To work or be trained to work, if 16 or older and it has been authorized by your case worker*

You have family rights too:

- ★ *You can visit and contact your brothers and sisters, parents and other family members (unless a judge says you cannot)*

You have medical and health rights:

- ★ *You must receive appropriate medical care, which includes seeing a doctor, dentist, eye doctor and talking to a counselor*
- ★ *To take psychotropic medications only if it meets all requirements of Nevada law (NRS 432B.197)*

You have school rights. You should be able to:

- ★ *Attend the school that you were enrolled in before coming into foster care, if it is realistic and in your best interests*
- ★ *Have your educational records transferred quickly when you need to attend a new school*