

Nevada's Foster Youth

SIBLING BILL OF RIGHTS

The State of Nevada, Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS) 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 Sibling Bill of Rights was developed by DCFS in collaboration with *Nevada LIFE*, the statewide youth advisory board and expands the rights of children in foster care (NRS.432.525 – NRS.432.530).

WHEREAS, The importance of sibling relationships is widely recognized; and

WHEREAS, Siblings share similar history, heritage and culture which is important to preserve; and

WHEREAS, Separation from siblings is a significant and distinct loss, and the effect of that loss can be lessened by frequent contact between siblings; and

WHEREAS, Maintaining sibling relations fosters a sense of continuity and stability for children placed in foster care; and

WHEREAS, Every foster child deserves to know and be actively involved in the lives of his or her siblings, absent extraordinary circumstances.

You have the right:

- ★ To be placed with your siblings, whenever possible, if your siblings are also placed outside of your home.
- ★ To be placed in close proximity to your siblings to facilitate frequent contact.
- ★ To contact and visit your siblings, except if prohibited by a judge, and to have contact arranged on a regular basis and on holidays, birthdays and other significant life events.
- ★ Not to have contact or visitation with a sibling withheld as a form of punishment.
- ★ To be informed of any plan to change, or change in, the placement of a sibling, including, without limitation, a plan to change the placement of a sibling resulting from adoption, reaching the age of 18 years or otherwise leaving a foster home.
- ★ To be supported by the Child Welfare Agency in your efforts to maintain relationships with your siblings.

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*
- ★ *DCFS Systems Advocate Unit 775-684-4453*

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 393 effective October 1, 2013



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