

# YOU HAVE RIGHTS TOO!

LEARN THEM!

- YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO A SAFE, COMFORTABLE LIVING ENVIRONMENT:**
- \* WITH ENOUGH CLOTHES AND HEALTHY FOOD
  - \* WITH YOUR OWN PLACE TO STORE YOUR THINGS
  - \* WITH A PHONE THAT YOU CAN USE FOR CONFIDENTIAL CALLS
  - \* THAT IS AS FAMILY LIKE AND LEAST RESTRICTIVE AS POSSIBLE
- (unless a judge says that you cannot)*



HAVE RIGHTS TOO!

## WHO CAN HELP YOU

### IF YOUR RIGHTS ARE NOT FOLLOWED?

#### CALL YOUR LAWYER AND CHILD ADVOCACY SPECIALIST

Your Lawyer and CAS are available to talk to you when you have a question, comment, or concern about your case. You can tell your Lawyer and CAS anything you want. Most of the time they cannot tell anyone else what you say (except in certain situations: ask your lawyer or CAS about this)

It is the job of your Lawyer and CAS to defend your rights, and make sure your voice is heard in court. Your Lawyer and CAS can help you with:

- \* Getting visits with your brothers, sisters, and parents
- \* Questions about court, your case plans, or your placement
- \* Problems with your social worker
- \* Making sure all your needs are being met
- \* Any other concerns you have

#### CALL YOUR CASEWORKER OR PROBATION OFFICER

Their job is to make sure that your needs are taken care of. Remember that you have the right to:

- \* Know their name and phone number
- \* Ask for their help
- \* Have them call you back

- THE LAW SAYS:**
- \* You have rights if you live in foster homes, group homes, shelters, or transitional housing programs
  - \* You have the right to file a complaint without the fear of retaliation
  - \* You must be told about your rights in a way you can understand

#### WRITE IMPORTANT INFORMATION HERE:

\_\_\_\_\_  
YOUR CASEWORKER

\_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE NUMBER

\_\_\_\_\_  
YOUR CASEWORKER'S SUPERVISOR

\_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE NUMBER

\_\_\_\_\_  
YOUR CHILD ADVOCACY SPECIALIST

\_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE NUMBER

\_\_\_\_\_  
YOUR LAWYER

\_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE NUMBER

\_\_\_\_\_  
YOUR PROBATION OFFICER

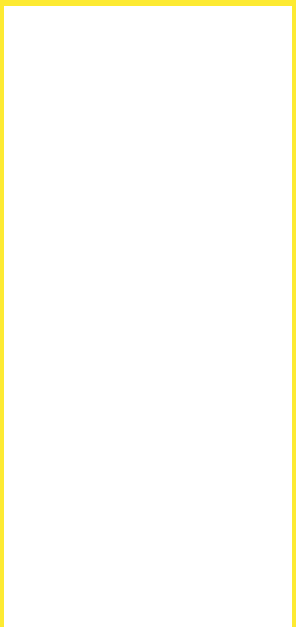
\_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE NUMBER

## WHAT SHOULD YOU DO IF YOU HAVE A PROBLEM WITH YOUR LAWYER OR CHILD ADVOCACY SPECIALIST?

If you do not know who your Lawyer or Child Advocacy Specialist is, call KidsVoice at 412-391-3100

437 Grant Street  
Suite 700  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219  
www.kidsvoice.org

When you wear your KidsVoice Bracelet you'll always know that there is someone who cares



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**KidsVoice**  
Promoting Children's Rights  
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Pittsburgh, PA 15219



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Number: 412-391-3100  
www.kidsvoice.org

FILL OUT ALL OF THIS INFO AND KEEP IT IN YOUR PURSE OR WALLET.



# YOU

# HAVE RIGHTS TOO!

## YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO:

- \* Be treated with respect, fairness, and dignity
- \* Attend age appropriate activities
- \* Practice the religion or faith of your choice
- \* Not participate in any religion or faith if you choose
- \* Send and receive unopened mail (*unless the judge says someone can open your mail*)
- \* Be informed of the rules of the facility you are in
- \* Make contact with your caseworker, Lawyers, Child Advocacy Specialist (CAS), probation officers, CASA and anyone else involved with your case
- \* Be told about your placement by your social worker or probation officer
- \* Be informed of the complaint or grievance procedure of the facility that you are in

## NO ONE CAN:

- \* Lock you in your room or building (*unless you are in a locked down facility*)
- \* Abuse you physically, sexually, or emotionally for any reason
- \* Punish you or physically hurt you in any way
- \* Look through your things, unless they have a legitimate reason (*you are protected from unreasonable searches and seizures*)

## YOU HAVE RIGHTS AT COURT TOO. YOU CAN:

- \* Have a Lawyer and meet with him/her privately before your hearing
- \* Go to court and talk to the judge. Your Lawyer and CAS are the only ones that can waive your appearance

- \* See and get a copy of your court report and case plan
- \* Ask the judge to appoint a new Lawyer if you do not think that yours is doing his/her job
- \* Speak to the judge directly about your accomplishments, problems, and requests
- \* Keep your court records private
- \* Get information from your caseworker, probation officer, Lawyer, or CAS about any changes in your case plan or placement

## YOU HAVE HEALTH RIGHTS. YOU CAN:

- \* See a doctor, dentist, eye doctor, or therapist
- \* Receive medical coverage
- \* Discuss your options if you are pregnant and consent to your own prenatal care, except abortion. (*you must have the consent of a parent, guardian, or the court for an abortion*)
- \* Be free from excessive medication
- \* Receive mental health treatment
- \* Consent to your own care if you are over age 18
- \* Consent to your own substance abuse treatment
- \* Obtain contraception on your own
- \* Consent to your own testing and treatment related to any STD
- \* Consent to your own testing and treatment for HIV/AIDS
- \* Refuse to take medication if you are over age 14.
- \* Refuse mental health treatment if you are over age 14, unless it is court ordered
- \* Have access to your mental health records
- \* Refuse to release records of substance abuse treatment or treatment for an STD or HIV/AIDS

## YOU HAVE EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS. YOU CAN:

- \* Go to school everyday — call your Lawyer or CAS if you are not enrolled in school
- \* Participate in school activities
- \* Go to your home school if you are in shelter
- \* Sign yourself out of school at age 17
- \* Sign out of school at age 16, with a parent's written approval
- \* Obtain a GED if eligible
- \* Receive special education if you are eligible

## YOU MAY NOT BE DISCRIMINATED AGAINST BASED ON RACE, COLOR, RELIGIOUS CREED, DISABILITY, HANDICAP, ANCESTRY, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, NATIONAL ORIGIN, AGE OR SEX

## YOU HAVE RIGHTS TO YOUR FAMILY. YOU CAN:

- \* Have contact with and visit your brothers and sisters (*unless the judge says that you cannot*)
- \* Contact and visit your parents and other family members at least every two weeks (*unless the judge says that you cannot or your visits are restricted*)
- \* Not have a family visit used as a reward or a sanction/punishment
- \* Get services to help you stay with your family

## YOU HAVE OTHER RIGHTS TOO. YOU CAN:

- \* Live with a family member if that is a safe place
- \* Be placed with your child if you are a teen parent (*unless the court has determined otherwise*)
- \* Have appropriate clothing, and receive clothing allotments
- \* Work, if your placement and age allow
- \* Have a savings plan if you are in an Independent Living Program
- \* Call your Lawyer or CAS at any time
- \* Communicate privately with your Lawyer, CAS, or clergy
- \* Receive Independent Living services at age 16
- \* See your family's children and youth case records when you are age 14 or older
- \* Receive permanent documents, such as your birth certificate, social security card, health and educational records when discharged at age 18 or older
- \* Only be discharged from care if you have a discharge plan in place
- \* Be involved in your case plan
- \* Have a plan for your future
- \* Be provided with services to help prepare you to be a successful adult
- \* Remain in care after you turn age 18 if you are still in a course of treatment or education

## YOUR RIGHTS MAY NOT BE USED AS A REWARD OR A SANCTION FOR YOUR BEHAVIOR.

WHO CAN HELP YOU IF YOUR RIGHTS ARE NOT FOLLOWED? CALL YOUR LAWYER AND CHILD ADVOCACY SPECIALIST

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO IF YOU HAVE A PROBLEM WITH YOUR LAWYER OR CHILD ADVOCACY SPECIALIST?

CONTACT HIS/HER SUPERVISOR AT KIDVOICE PHONE: 412-391-3100

# LEARN THEM!

THIS BROCHURE IS FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY, AND IS NOT INTENDED AS LEGAL ADVICE.