

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

SB385

Bill as Introduced

SB 385 - AS INTRODUCED

2018 SESSION

18-2939
05/03

SENATE BILL

385

AN ACT

establishing a foster care children's bill of rights.

SPONSORS:

Sen. Feltes, Dist 15; Sen. Reagan, Dist 17; Sen. Carson, Dist 14; Sen. Cavanaugh, Dist 16; Sen. Fuller Clark, Dist 21; Sen. Hennessey, Dist 5; Rep. M. MacKay, Hills. 30; Rep. Morrison, Rock. 9; Rep. Wallner, Merr. 10

COMMITTEE:

Health and Human Services

ANALYSIS

This bill establishes a bill of rights for children in foster care.

Explanation:

Matter added to current law appears in *bold italics*.

Matter removed from current law appears [~~in brackets and struckthrough.~~]

Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Eighteen

AN ACT establishing a foster care children's bill of rights.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

1 Statement of Purpose.

2 I. The rights enumerated in this act are intended to guide department of health and human
3 services staff, foster parents, and providers in the delivery of care and services to youth in out-of-
4 home placement with a commitment to permanency, safety and well-being. These rights provide
5 youth with a "voice" to be taken into consideration when decisions are made by the courts,
6 department staff, and providers. They are designed to ensure opportunities for age appropriate
7 involvement in "normal" life experiences.

8 II. The following assumptions, beliefs, and goals guide this foster children's bill of rights:

9 (a) Everyone deserves to be safe.

10 (b) All children and youth need and deserve permanency and a life of wellbeing.

11 (c) Everyone, regardless of age, deserves to be treated with courtesy and respect.

12 (d) All children, youth, and families have strengths.

13 (e) All children and youth belong with a family or other sources of caring and support.

14 2 New Subdivision; Foster Care Children's Bill of Rights. Amend RSA 170-G by inserting after
15 section 19 the following new subdivision:

16 Foster Care Children's Bill of Rights

17 170-G:20 Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard. The rights of children in foster care exist
18 within the context of the reasonable and prudent parent standard defined in 42 U.S.C. section
19 675(10). This means that foster parents, caretakers, and department staff must make careful and
20 sensible decisions that maintain the health, safety, and best interests of a child while at the same
21 time encouraging the emotional and developmental growth of the child. The rights established in
22 this section are to be applied in accordance with the reasonable and prudent parent standard, in a
23 context appropriate to the age and developmental level of the child, and in recognition of the fact
24 that some of these rights may be considered privileges to be earned.

25 170-G:21 Foster Care Children's Bill of Rights. A child who is placed in a foster home or other
26 out-of-home placement pursuant to a juvenile court proceeding under RSA 169-B, RSA 169-C, or
27 RSA 169-D shall have the right:

28 I. To be supported in a healthy growth and developmental process from early childhood to
29 adulthood and to be protected from all forms of abuse.

30 II. To receive appropriate and team recommended treatments, including counseling,
31 medical care, and dental treatment, within a reasonable period.

SB 385 - AS INTRODUCED

- Page 2 -

1 III. To receive support from department staff, and his or her foster family or residential
2 provider in maintaining positive contact with significant people, such as relatives, friends, teachers,
3 and community supports, including assistance with obtaining contact information, transportation,
4 and reasonable visitation opportunities.

5 IV. To develop a support group, which may, when appropriate, include department staff,
6 foster parents, residential staff, therapists, and other individuals with responsibility for case
7 planning.

8 V. To be treated with courtesy and respect by department staff, foster parents, residential
9 staff, and providers without regard to race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion,
10 or disability and to participate in activities associated with his or her religious beliefs.

11 VI. To participate in "normal" activities consistent with his or her age and developmental
12 level, such as opening a bank account, celebrating birthdays, participating in graduations, and
13 obtaining an identity card, unless restricted by the child's treatment plan, case plan, or the
14 availability of financial resources.

15 VII. To receive notice of any meetings regarding the child's case and to have opportunities
16 to resolve potential barriers to participation, such as a lack of transportation or conflict with the
17 child's academic schedule.

18 VIII. To receive information about decisions that affect the child's life and to be notified of
19 changes that affect his or her case plan, treatment plan, permanency, safety, stability, or wellbeing,
20 and to have his or her voice considered in these decisions.

21 IX. To be informed of all assistance that the department offers foster children related to
22 permanency planning, education, employment, housing, and wellbeing.

23 X. To receive assistance in acquiring life skills, education, training, and career guidance to
24 accomplish personal goals, prepare for the future, and to become a self-sufficient adult after the
25 child's transition from care.

26 XI. To have an achievable transition plan when the child leaves care that is created by the
27 foster child with the help of his or her support group.

28 XII. To attend and participate in court hearings to the extent permitted by the court and
29 appropriate given the age and experience of the child.

30 XIII. To utilize technology, such as social networking sites and cell phones, based on the
31 child's level of maturity and responsibility and taking into account the environment in which the
32 child is living, the support of his or her treatment team, the financial costs involved, and the child's
33 ability to maintain privileges.

34 XIV. To be informed of the process for contacting the child protective services worker's
35 supervisor, or other department staff, the guardian ad litem, and the office of the child advocate.

36 XV. To be informed by the department of the rights set forth in this section and to receive
37 assistance in obtaining and enforcing them.

38 3 Effective Date. This act shall take effect ~~30 days after its passage~~

Passage

Amendments

Health and Human Services
January 11, 2018
2018-0109s
05/04

Amendment to SB 385

- 1 Amend the bill by replacing section 3 with the following:
- 2
- 3 3 Effective Date. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

Committee Minutes

Senate Health and Human Services Committee
Kyle Baker 271-2609

SB 385, establishing a foster care children's bill of rights. .

Hearing Date: January 11, 2018

Time Opened: 1:00 p.m.

Time Closed: 1:30 p.m.

Members of the Committee Present: Senators Bradley, Avard, Gray and Fuller Clark

Members of the Committee Absent : Senator Hennessey.

Bill Analysis: This bill establishes a bill of rights for children in foster care.

Sponsors:

Sen. Feltes

Sen. Reagan

Sen. Carson

Sen. Cavanaugh

Sen. Fuller Clark

Sen. Hennessey

Rep. M. MacKay

Rep. Morrison

Rep. Wallner

Who supports the bill: Sen. Dan Feltes; Sen. Kevin Cavanaugh; Sen. Martha Hennessey; Dolly McPhaul, DCYF Advisory Board; Joseph Ribsom, DCYF; Stuart Trachy, National Association of Social Workers; Sen. Sharon Carson; Rhiannon Mimms; Samuel Baker; John Dejoie, Child and Family Services

Who opposes the bill: None

Who is neutral on the bill: None

Summary of testimony presented in support:

Senator Dan Feltes – Senate District 15

- This bill would establish a foster children bill of rights
- This legislation was crafted by Dr. Lawrence Shulman who is a renowned expert in working with at risk children.
- Dr. Shulman has been working with a number of different stakeholders to come up with a list of rights that would best protect at risk children in foster care situations.
- This list of rights was originally quite expansive but the legislation hits the high points.
- This is a big issue because of our opioid epidemic and this is a good piece of the

puzzle to protect these kids.

- A foster children bill of rights was one of the recommendations contained in the DCYF independent review from 2016.
- Putting some of the key rights into law is an essential part of elevating the voices of children in the foster care system.
- It is important to make sure we are always ensuring the voices of those who cannot speak are heard and protected.
- Dr. Shulman could not be here today but copies of his testimony will be provided for the committee.
 - Sen. Avarad – How would this be enforced.
 - Sen. Feltes – It would be the responsibility of DHHS to implement this bill of rights and ultimately it would be up to the department to enforce them as well. If DHHS is not providing something in here that they are responsible for there would also be a possibility of litigation but that litigation could occur whether or not the bill of rights is law.
 - Sen. Avarad – How do you enforce areas of this bill of rights that are more vague?
 - Sen. Feltes – There is always going to be some grey area in the law and words like “to the extent possible or reasonable” are often used to give some discretion on how the law is interpreted.

Dolly McPhaul – DCYF Advisory Board

- The board unanimously voted to support this bill
- There are many versions and lists of rights that would apply to foster children but it is more efficient and effective to have a compilation of the various rights in one listing.
- This bill will give authority to the bill of rights.
- The board hopes that this legislation will lead to a reduction in litigation by establishing a clean bill of rights. Clarity is key in enforcing the law.
- Would also like to emphasize the need for more resources to DCYF in order to meet the needs of the department. More resources would allow staff to process cases more efficiently and better protect children.
- This bill is a good step in ensuring voices for at risk populations.

Joseph Ribsom – DYCF, Director

- Creating a bill of rights is a piece of the puzzle but there is still concern that we have the capacity to fulfill the promises we are making in this bill.
- We have a lack of transportation and visitation services right now so these tasks are often falling to caseworkers that are already overburdened by their work load.
- There are similar concerns on resource needs to meet some of the other parts of

this bill.

- We are aware of other legislation that will continue to push the needle forward but the department would like to caution the committee that this is only a piece of the solution.
 - Sen. Avard – Does the term “Healthy Growth” exclude cases of homeschooling or religious teaching?
 - Ribsom – Not at all. In New Hampshire foster parents can do all of that. Healthy growth is based on the needs of the children and what their needs are going forward. Often the department will look at the history of the child and come up with a plan to best move forward.
 - Sen. Avard – Will this help generate more interest in becoming a foster parent?
 - Ribsom – It is hard to predict. We have doubled the number of kids in foster care over the last three years and it does not seem that this trend is changing any time soon. Also need to be sure we are working to keep families safe and strong so we do not need to be taking children into custody at all.
 - Sen. Fuller Clark – Is the increase in the number of children in foster care the result of the Opioid epidemic.
 - Ribsom – It definitely is not helping. Would not want to say that it is the sole cause of the increase but many children are taken into custody because of parents with substance use disorders.
 - Sen. Bradley – Do you see a potential for an increase in litigation?
 - Ribsom – It is not possible to predict whether or not this will cause an increase in litigation. In New Jersey they have a bill of rights codified in law and it was not a source of increased litigation.

Cindy Clark – Fostering Change; Alliance for NH Foster Parents

- There are 36 states with some sort of foster children bill of rights.
- There has been a 387% increase in children taken from homes due to opioids.
- It is important to have requirements for healthy growth and development codified into law.
- There is plenty of information on trauma informed care and how to help children grow up in a healthy way even while in foster care.
- This will hold DCYF accountable.
- Much of the litigation comes from foster parents on behalf of their children.
- We have surveyed many foster families across the states and the bill of rights is an item that is often requested.

Summary of testimony presented in opposition: None

Neutral Information Presented: None

Future Action: Pending

KRB

Date Hearing Report completed: January 12, 2018

Speakers

Testimony

Dorothy M. McPhaul

PO Box 601

Sugar Hill, NH 03586

January 11, 2018

Good Afternoon.

My name is Dolly McPhaul and I live in Sugar Hill.

I am here today representing the Advisory Board for the Department of Children, Youth and Families.

The Board voted unanimously in support of SB 385, for a number of reasons:

- 1) There are currently many versions of foster child's list of rights. It is obviously more efficient and effective to have a compilation of the various rights in one listing, which this is.
- 2) The multiple lists are an admirable attempt, but lack the authority to enforce their criteria. A passed legislative bill will provide the necessary impetus and authority to guarantee those rights.
- 3) It is the hope this bill will prevent law suits by establishing a requirement to provide the rights listed in SB 385. A set of specific rights make clear what lines must be followed, removing any uncertainty as to what is expected of the state. Clarity is critical for all parties involved.
- 4) The public outcry is for DCYF to make changes and improve the protection of children. HB 385 is one step in that process. Passage of this bill is important to demonstrate the initiative taken by the legislature to make necessary changes. This particular bill is timely and important due to the increasing demand for foster parents as a result of the opioid epidemic.

The Advisory Board is very fortunate to have as a member, Dr. Lawrence Shulman. Lawrence Shulman, M.S.W., Ed.D is a retired Professor and former Dean Emeritus at the NY University at Buffalo School of Social Work. He has been a social work practice educator for over forty years. He has completed extensive research in the area of child welfare. He has published multiple articles on direct practice and is the co-editor of seven books, one in its 7th edition. Dr. Shulman was selected for the Columbia University School of Social Work Alumni Hall of Fame in 2010. Dr. Shulman supports SB 385.

The DCYF Board, in conclusion, respectfully requests "your" support for SB 385.

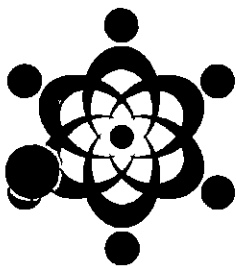
Thank you,

Dolly McPhaul

Home: 823-8450

Cell: 305-6975

Dmmcphaul101@gmail.com



FOSTERING CHANGE

Alliance for NH Foster Parents

January 11, 2018

RE: Letter of Support for SB385

Dear Honorable Senators of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee:

I am writing to you today on behalf of the members of Fostering Change: Alliance for NH Foster Parents to express our full support for Senate Bill 385.

The Alliance empowers foster parents to help make changes in foster care. Our mission and who we are embodies the “assumptions, beliefs, and goals” that guide this foster care children’s bill of rights. Section I. of this bill highlights the need for children of all ages to be protected from all forms of trauma and abuse, while safeguarding “healthy growth and development.” Infants and toddlers are the most vulnerable when permanency cannot be established in a timely manner. This bill helps ensure that children will be given a permanent home as soon as possible, whether by reunification or adoption.

Time is of the essence in establishing permanency within the twelve-month requirement, as stated in the Federal Adoption & Safe Families Act (ASFA, 1997). Passing this bill is important because failing to do so, increases a child’s risk for irreparable physiological and psychological damage. Children under three years of age are most susceptible, as their brains are more formable during this period of development.

Trauma experts maintain that trauma is initiated by the very act of removing a child from their home. Dismissing or ignoring child growth and development theories in any permanency process imposes great harm, yet all too often this is happening in New Hampshire. A long-term foster placement compounds the likelihood of increased damage and contributes to additional trauma, especially for young children. We support Section II.b of this bill that all children, youth and adolescents need and deserve “permanency” and a life of “well-being.”

The evidence-based research indicates that even toddlers who experience emotionally related trauma have difficulties learning to trust and to form secure and healthy relationships for years to come. This is absolutely preventable. SB383 captures the essential need for developmentally focused trauma informed care for children of all ages. We need you to help prevent children from being re-traumatized while in state care by passing this bill.

The inclusion of 170-G:20 *Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard* will state that the rights of children in foster care exist within the context of the reasonable and prudent parent standards. Incorporating this language ensures that a foster parent’s observations and information about their foster child will maintain the health, safety, and best interests of that child.

We’re asking the Senate Committee to vote for this bill and make it possible for children to receive the most optimal care and protection in a timely manner. Thank for your commitment to improving the quality of lives for New Hampshire’s children, youth and adolescents.

Sincerely,

Cindy Clark, MSW, CCCLS
Founder, Fostering Change: Alliance for NH Foster Parents

Contact: Fosterchangenh@gmail.com

www.FosteringChangeNH.org

Statement in Support of SB385 - Establishing a Foster Child's Bill of Rights

Dr. Lawrence Shulman, MSW, Ed. D

Professor and Dean Emeritus, University at Buffalo School of Social Work

I have lived part-time and now full-time in New Hampshire since 1994. I became a full-time resident in 2007 upon retiring from the Deanship of a school of social work. During my over 50 years as a social work academic I have taught, consulted, researched and published with an emphasis on child welfare practice. I am the author of a book on child welfare published by the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) in 2015. While I have consulted on child welfare practice for numerous state systems in the US and Canada I became more significantly involved in the New Hampshire child welfare program only upon my appointment to the DCYF Advisory Board two years ago. I share this brief bio as background to my comments to follow in support of passage of SB385.

The rights outlined in this Bill all can be found as guidelines in Federal legislation, in several bills of rights adopted by other states, and in statements supported by New England child welfare organizations, including the New Hampshire DHHS.

While the rights contained in this bill are considered good practice, since they do not carry the force of law, they are not always funded at a level that allows them to be implemented. By passing this bill the legislature will be sending a message that protecting New Hampshire children from neglect and abuse, and providing sound foster and residential care when needed, is a high priority.

This has become even more important with the significant growth in New Hampshire of the numbers of at-risk children, and children entering foster care or residential care, associated with substance abuse and the Opioid epidemic. In my time on the DCYF Board I have been impressed with the dedication and commitment of the DCYF front-line staff, and senior administrators, but they need the support of the community. When I compare the statistics for New Hampshire with other state systems the need for immediate attention is clear.

For example, new cases are requiring investigations at a faster rate per worker than can properly be implemented in a timely manner. Case loads for ongoing work with families are substantially higher than in other states. Front-line

worker positions can not be filled because of a shortage of qualified applicants and there is a significant number of workers on leave due to not uncommon incidents of burnout. For many reasons, there is a shortage of foster care homes resulting, at times, in foster children being placed in more expensive out-of-state homes. While recent efforts to close cases, to provide 24 hour and weekend call-in lines are helpful, in my experience, they do not meet the standards of care provided in other many other states.

While passing a foster child's bill of rights will not "solve" all of the problems facing the state it will be a clear indication that New Hampshire intends to live up to its obligations to at-risk children. I believe this is important right now and that we should not wait for another child death or report of undetected and significant child neglect or abuse. Passing this bill will be an important first step in addressing the needs of these families and children.

Lawrence Shulman

BILL OF RIGHTS



FOR
NEW
HAMPSHIRE
YOUTH IN
CARE



Division for Children, Youth and Families
NH Department of Health
and Human Services
www.dhhs.state.nh.us/dcyf

BILL OF RIGHTS

The New Hampshire Division for Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) recognizes the following rights of youth in out-of-home care. These rights are intended to guide DCYF and its providers in the delivery of care and services to youth in out-of-home placement with the commitment to permanency, safety, and well-being. These rights provide youth with a "voice" regarding their Division involvement while ensuring opportunities for "normal" life experiences. This Bill of Rights was developed by the New Hampshire Youth Voices DCYF Youth Advisory Board.



CASE PLANNING /PERMANENCY

- To be involved, as appropriate, in the development of the case plan, and to have a case plan that addresses your special needs.
- To request to the Division that up to two individuals, other than your foster parent or caseworker, become members of your case planning team and participate in the development of your case plan.
- To have one person that you select act as your advisor or advocate and to ensure that you have the opportunity to participate in age or developmentally appropriate activities.
- To understand and have a voice in the creation of your permanency plan and not to have it changed without your input.
- To participate in the creation of your treatment plan and have a say in treatment decisions.
- To object, in writing or directly to your caseworker, or treatment provider to any of the required actions in the case plan, permanency plan, or treatment plan that were not discussed with you.
- To attend court hearings and speak to the judge about what you want to have happen in your case.
- To be made aware of any and all meetings about your case and have opportunities to find a way to resolve potential barriers to your participation; like transportation or school.

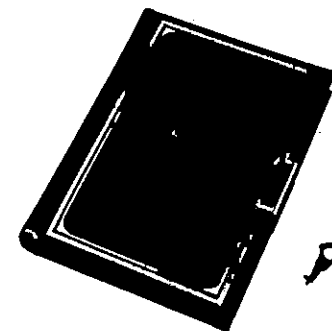
NORMALCY

- To be able to participate in “normal” activities consistent with your age and developmental level, unless restricted by your treatment plan or case plan.
- To be able to advocate to appropriately utilize technology, such as social networking sites and cell phones, based on your level of maturity and responsibility and taking into account the environment in which you are living, the support of your treatment team, and your ability to maintain privileges.



PRIVACY/PERSONAL SPACE AND BELONGINGS

- To be able to pack your own personal belongings and to have them secure and transported with you.
- To have your own space, in your placement, where you can keep your personal belongings.
- To have access to your personal belongings, personal space, and privacy, with allowance for safety.
- To have your privacy protected and your confidentiality maintained, unless you give permission to share information or you are in danger of harming yourself or others.
- To live in a safe and respectful setting where searches of person and belongings are done in a considerate and respectful manner and only when necessary.



RELATIONSHIP WITH FAMILY/FRIENDS

- To receive support from your Child Protective Service Worker (CPSW) or Juvenile Probation or Parole Officer (JPPO) and foster family/provider in maintaining positive contact with significant people (relatives, friends, teachers, and community supports), including assistance with obtaining contact information and visitation.
- To have uncensored communication, including sending and receiving unopened communications and having access to a telephone, unless otherwise ordered by the court.
- To have the option to visit and talk with your parents, siblings, relatives, and other individuals important to you unless restricted by the court and/or DCYF.
- To be provided with an explanation for contact restrictions with your parents, siblings, relatives, and other individuals important to you.
- To be provided with assistance, as desired, in reconnecting with your family of origin.



COMMUNICATION WITH CPSW/JPPO

- To be treated with courtesy and respect by DCYF staff, foster parents, residential staff, and providers without regard to race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, and/or disability.
- To be informed in a manner appropriate to age and developmental level of the reason(s) that DCYF became involved with your family and why you are in care.
- To receive honest information about decisions that DCYF is making that affect your life and to be notified of changes that affect your permanency, safety, stability, or well-being.
- To be informed of the name and phone number of your assigned CPSW or JPPO.
- To have regular communication with your CPSW/JPPO, at least once a month, which shall include meeting with



you alone and conferring with your residential treatment facility, relative or foster parent.

- To be made aware of the process for contacting your CPSW/JPPO's supervisor regarding any questions or concerns.
- To be informed of the names and phone numbers of your assigned guardian ad litem (GAL) and/or attorney and be aware that you can contact your GAL or attorney.
- To have access to information contained in your medical, dental, and educational records held by DCYF, as well as personal documents, such as your social security card and birth certificate.
- To be provided with copies of your medical, dental, and educational records held by DCYF along with your social security card and certified birth certificate prior to leaving care at the age of 18 or older.
- To obtain a non-driver's identification card or another suitable form of photo identification prior to leaving care at the age of 18 or older.
- To be provided with information about health insurance options prior to leaving care at the age of 18 or older.

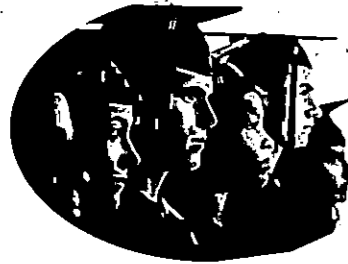
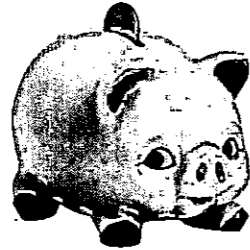
PERSONAL APPEARANCE/EXPRESSION

- To be allowed to change your appearance, including hair, piercings, etc., if legal and with the consent of your parent or legal guardian and supported by your treatment team.



ADULT LIVING PREPARATION

- To be informed of any and all assistance that DCYF offers for youth related to permanency planning, education, employment, housing, and well-being.
- To have opportunities to earn an income through employment, allowance, etc.
- To open and maintain a bank account and manage personal income consistent with your age and ability.
- To receive assistance in acquiring life skills, education, training, and career guidance to accomplish personal goals, prepare for the future and be a self-sufficient adult after you transition from care.
- To have an achievable transition plan when you leave care that is created by you and your supports.



8

EDUCATION

- To receive a free and appropriate education, with minimal disruption to your education and retention in your home school if appropriate.
- To get a referral for special education services when applicable, including where appropriate, the appointment of an educational surrogate.
- To have all necessary information shared between the school and the Department, including information on attendance and educational progress.



9

HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

- To have access to medical, dental, vision, mental and behavioral health services, for routine, acute, and emergency care, as needed.
- To be encouraged, if age and developmentally appropriate, to make your own appointments with medical and dental care providers.
- To be fully informed of the risks and benefits of recommended medications or medical procedures.
- To have a voice in decisions about prescription medications or medical procedures.
- To not receive a consequence for refusal to take medications or consent to a medical procedure, and to be made aware of health risks associated with your decision as well as the potential for activity restriction and/or increased supervision to ensure your safety and the safety of others.



COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Whenever possible attend religious services and activities of your choice and to preserve your cultural heritage.
- To attend school and participate in extracurricular and personal enrichment activities, consistent with your age and ability



PLACEMENT AND CARE

- To have family and relatives explored first as potential placement providers.
- To be provided with information about potential foster family, relative, or program and be able to meet them in person before placement occurs whenever possible.
- To have a voice regarding what is the most appropriate placement for you.
- Whenever possible, have an immediate visit, within 24 hours of placement, with your family and to have regular visits with your parents and/or other relatives unless prohibited by court.
- To be treated with courtesy and respect, and to receive healthy food, adequate clothing, and appropriate personal hygiene products.
- To live in a safe, nurturing environment, where your permanency and well-being are supported and where your goals, interests and participation in social and school activities are encouraged.
- To be protected from physical, sexual, emotional or other abuse, including corporal punishment (hitting or spanking as a punishment) human trafficking or any other form of exploitation.



- To receive individualized care and attention based on your unique skills, needs, and goals.



- To know exactly what is expected of you by the placement provider at the time of placement.
- To be made aware of the grievance process if you have concerns about your placement and to have access to an advocate to help with this process as needed.
- To be treated as a family member if placed in foster or relative care and, whenever possible, be included in the family's activities, holidays, and rituals, and to be able to freely discuss reason(s) with your CPSW/JPPO and caregiver if you are choosing not to participate.
- To be informed of, and prepared for, any and all placement changes before they occur, whenever possible.
- To be able to continue relationships when exiting care with individuals who have helped you while in care, unless restricted by your treatment plan, case plan, or agency policy.



Find additional resources:
on Facebook: Keywords — NH Youth
Voices (Resources)
DCYF Adolescent Program: [http://
www.dhhs.state.nh.us/dcyf/adolescent.htm](http://www.dhhs.state.nh.us/dcyf/adolescent.htm)

I have received and read the Bill of Rights For Youth In
Care.

Youth Signature

CPSW/JPPPO Signature

Placement Provider

Date

Receipt for Bill of Rights For Youth In Care

The New Hampshire Division for Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) recognizes the following rights of youth in out-of-home care. These rights are intended to guide DCYF and its providers in the delivery of care and services to youth in out-of-home placement with the commitment to permanency, safety, and well-being. These rights provide youth with a "voice" regarding their DCYF involvement while ensuring opportunities for "normal" life experiences. This Bill of Rights was developed by the New Hampshire Youth Voices DCYF Youth Advisory Board.

The youth has been provided with their Bill of Rights which include the following heading area's:

- Case Planning/Permanency
 - * Involvement in Court Proceedings
- Relationships with Family/Friends
 - * Visitation
- Normalcy
 - * Access to age and developmentally appropriate activities
- Privacy/Personal Space and Belongings
- Communication with CPSW/JPPPO
 - * Access to what you need when you leave care (medical and educational record, social security card etc.)
- Personal Appearance/Expression
- Education

- Placement and Care
 - * Ensure safety from any exploitation
- Community Involvement
- Health and Well-Being

Youth Signature

CPSW/JPPO Signature

Placement Provider

Date

PRACTICE MODEL BELIEFS

- Everyone deserves to be safe.
- All children and youth need and deserve permanency.
- Everyone needs and deserves a life of well-being.
- Everyone deserves to be treated with courtesy and respect.
- Prevention reduces child abuse, neglect and delinquency and promotes safety for children, youth, families and communities.
- All children, youth and families have strengths.
- All children and youth belong with family.



Form 1960

August 2015
PD 15-42