



# NEW MEXICO RESOURCE/FOSTER PARENT BILL OF RIGHTS

- To be treated with dignity, respect, and consideration as integral members of the child welfare team;
- To be notified of scheduled meetings concerning a child in their care to actively participate in the care planning and treatment process unless the child is 14 or older, at which point, they may make their own decision on who attends and participates in their care plan as described in the Youth Bill of Rights;
- To provide input concerning the plan of services for the children in their care and to have that input given full consideration, in the same manner as information presented by any other member of the team, without fear of retaliation;
- To communicate about the child/ren in their care with professionals who work with the child/ren including, but not limited to, their Guardian Ad Litem/Youth Attorney, therapists, physicians, and school personnel, without fear of accusation of violating the Confidentiality Code or retaliation;
- To receive a written copy of the child's treatment and service plans and any subsequent revisions on a timely basis;
- To receive the completed Child Specific Placement Agreement within 24 hours of the time the child in care is placed in their home;
- To be given pre-service training and appropriate ongoing training, including upon request training relevant to the needs of the child in their care;
- To be informed of and have access to, all agency policies and procedures related to their role as resource families and related to any child for whom they provide substitute care;
- To a fair, timely, and impartial investigation concerning referrals filed against them, and access to a fair and impartial appeal process free from retaliation, according to CYFD policy and procedure. The result of any referral or investigation will be provided to the resource family in writing and within 15 days of its conclusion;
- To be free from acts of harassment and retaliation by CYFD staff;
- To emergency access to CYFD staff on a twenty-four-hour, seven days per week basis. These CYFD staffs have access to individual children's records and are specifically trained to support resource/foster families in emergencies;
- To report misconduct by CYFD employees, service providers, or contractors and to have such reports initiated and investigated within 10 days of the report. CYFD shall take immediate action to remedy any action taken against a resource/foster parent in retaliation for exercising their rights under this section;
- To expect and rely upon the fact that CYFD's decisions regarding them and the children placed in their care will comply with state and federal law;
- To be notified when a child in their care has a case scheduled to be reviewed by the Substitute Care Advisory Council (SCAC). Resource/foster families have the right to participate when a child in their care has a case reviewed by the Substitute Care Advisory Council (SCAC);
- To receive adequate prior written notice of, and an opportunity to be heard at, court hearings regarding a child in their care, as provided by law;
- To submit factually based written statements to the court, as provided by law;
- To be informed of and receive available support services for a child in their care, as provided by CYFD policy and procedure;
- To be notified and considered as a placement option when a child formerly in their home reenters the foster care system;
- To receive full and timely financial reimbursement commensurate with the care and needs of the child, as provided by CYFD policy and procedure. Time is defined as within 30 days of the resource/foster family's request for reimbursement;
- To reasonable assistance from CYFD in dealing with loss and separation when a child in their care leaves their home;
- Resource/foster families of children with a plan of adoption placed in their home have the right to priority consideration as adoptive parents of those children if relatives have not been identified or are not viable placements;
- To confidentiality regarding personal issues, as provided by law;
- To full disclosure of all medical, psychological, and behavioral issues of children in their care, as provided by CYFD policy and procedure, and nothing in the Confidentiality Code shall be understood to require otherwise;
- In matters concerning licensing, resource/foster families have the right to be free from discrimination based on religion, race, color, creed, sexual orientation, national origin, age, marital status, or physical disabilities [03-19-21].