

A Coming of Age Foster Family Agency
Bill of Rights

**A Coming of Age
Foster Family Agency**

Foster Youth Bill of Rights

This agency operates under a well-defined and established set of rules for each child in placement. All employees, including foster parents, of A Coming of Age Foster Family Agency are expected to abide by these rules at all times. Failure to follow these rules of children in placement will result in Administrative actions being taken against anyone not adhering to these policies and guidelines. All children and placement workers are made aware of these rules as they pertain to children in placement.

A. The right to be treated with respect.

1. The facility shall ensure that the resident and his/her authorized representative(s) are offered the opportunity to participate in the development of the needs and service plan. 84068.2(d).
2. Facilities shall ensure that privacy rights of residents are respected. Individual privacy shall be provided in all toilet, bath, shower and dressing areas. 84088(b)(4).
3. Staff shall treat residents with respect and shall be prohibited from humiliating, intimidating ridiculing, coercing or threatening residents. 80072(a)(3).
4. Access to bathrooms shall not be unreasonably limited during waking or sleeping hours.
5. Residents shall have the right to be free to attend religious services and activities of their choice and to have visits from the spiritual supervisor or their choice. Attendance at religious services, in or out of the facility shall be on a completely voluntary basis. 80072(a)(5)(a).
6. Residents shall have the right to have visitors visit privately during waking hours without prior notice, provided that such visitations are not prohibited by the resident's needs and services plan, do not infringe upon the rights of other residents; do not disrupt planned activities; and are not prohibited by court order or by the resident's authorized representative. 84072(b)(5).

B. The right to adequate living conditions.

1. The home must meet licensing standards.
2. Residents shall have the right to privacy in their own rooms and shall not be prohibited from closing the doors in their rooms absent concerns for the safety of the resident.
3. Residents shall be allowed to possess and use their own toilet articles. 84072(b)(7).
4. Residents shall have access to individual storage space for their private use. 84072(b)(10).

5. Residents shall possess and use their own personal items unless prohibited as part of a discipline program. 84072(b)(9).
6. Residents shall be provided with adequate food pursuant to 80076, including between meal nourishment or snacks. 80076(a)(4).
7. Residents who require special diets, including vegetarian diets, religious diets or diets based on health needs, shall be provided with appropriate food.
8. Residents shall not be required to perform chores which are beyond the scope of expectations as outlined in the house rules or discipline information reviewed at placement by County worker and resident, except on a voluntary basis and for compensation.

C. The right to adequate voluntary medical, dental, and psychiatric care.

1. Non-medical staff shall not make medical decisions about the severity of an illness or injury or screen resident requests for medical attention without consulting with a physician or a trained health practitioner.
2. Psychotropic medications shall not be administered without parental consent, court order or compliance with court policy for administration or psychotropic medications.
3. Facility staff shall respect the confidentiality of residents' medical or psychiatric treatment. Information about this treatment shall not be generally available to staff.
4. Residents have the right to a second opinion, if requested, before being required to undergo intrusive medical, dental, or psychiatric procedures provided there is a resource for payment such as private insurance coverage for resident, Medi-cal authorization, etc.
5. Residents have the right to contact their social worker regarding receiving or rejecting medical or health related services. 80072(a)(9).

D. The right to fair treatment in administering rewards and punishments.

1. Facilities shall develop, maintain and implement written facility discipline policies and procedures meeting the requirements specified below: staff, residents and authorized representatives shall receive copies of such policies and procedures; copies of such policies and procedures shall be maintained in the resident's record. Any form of discipline, which violates a resident's personal rights as specified in Sections 80072 and 84072 shall be prohibited. 84072(a)(b). New residents shall not always/automatically start on the lowest level of the incentive system. Level assignment and privileges shall be consistent with the case plan/case plan update/court order(s). They should not be punished for being new and/or being moved. For a copy of the discipline policies and procedures, refer to the Discipline Policies and Procedures Form described in the Program Statement.
2. Residents shall have the right to appeal disciplinary actions that result in the loss of privileges. This appeal includes a right to notice of an alleged infraction, the intended punishment, and a decision by a third party using the grievance procedure described in the Program Statement.
3. Residents have a right to file a complaint with the facility, as specified in Section 84072.2. 84072(b)(2). For further clarification of how residents, authorized

representatives, or others can go about filing a complaint, please refer to the Program Statement.

E. The right to contact with family members, County Social Workers, attorneys, Court Appointed Special Advocates and other designated adult supporters.

1. Residents shall have access to telephones in order to make and receive confidential calls, provided that such calls are not prohibited by the resident's needs and service plan; are not prohibited as a form of discipline; do not infringe upon the rights of other residents; do not restrict availability of the telephone during emergencies; and, are not prohibited by court order or by the resident's authorized representative. 84072(b)(1).
2. Calls to the resident's authorized representative or placement agency or family members included in the service plan shall not be prohibited as a form of discipline. 84072(b)(11)(c).
3. Residents shall send and receive unopened correspondence, including court reports, unless prohibited by court order or by the resident's authorized representative(s). 84072(b)(12).
4. The facility will promptly and completely answer communications to the facility from the resident's relatives and/or authorized representative(s). 84072(b)(4).
5. Level systems shall not restrict personal rights as defined in Title 22, Section 84072. These include the right to approved visitors; telephone calls to parents or relatives included in the case plan; County Social Workers, Court Appointed Special Advocates or attorneys; access to correspondence; and access to medical care.

F. The right to education and community involvement.

1. Residents shall have the right to attend public school unless otherwise specified in their case plan.
2. Residents shall have the right to participate in extracurricular activities in accordance with the case plan. The facility shall provide transportation necessary to participate in these activities, to the extent possible and agreed upon. The facility shall make it possible for residents to attend church and community activities. 84079(a-c).

G. The right to work and develop job skills.

1. Residents shall be allowed to participate in education, employment and ILP services. Access to these services shall not be withheld. Transportation arrangements for residents who do not have independent arrangements shall be made.
2. The facility shall assist each youth age 14 or over to develop vocational skills and obtain documents necessary for employment. This may also include providing assistance in job training.
3. The facility shall support each youth who so desires in obtaining and maintaining employment by providing transportation, assisting in purchasing uniforms and providing other forms of support to the extent possible and agreed upon.

H. The right to social contacts. (Reprises)

1. Residents shall have the right to have visitors visit privately during waking hours without prior notice, provided that such visitations are not prohibited by the resident's needs and services plan, do not infringe upon the rights of other residents; do not disrupt planned activities; and are not prohibited by court order or by the resident's authorized representative. 84072(b)(5).
2. Residents shall have access to telephones in order to make and receive confidential calls, provided that such calls are not prohibited by the resident's needs and services plan; are not prohibited as a form of discipline; do not infringe upon the rights of other residents; do not restrict availability of the telephone during emergencies; and, are not prohibited by court order or by the resident's authorized representative. 84072(b)(11).
3. Residents shall send and receive unopened correspondence, including court reports, unless prohibited by court order or by the resident's authorized representative(s). 84072(b)(12).

I. The right to adequate clothing.

1. Residents shall possess their own clothes. 84072(b)(6).

J. The right to a reasonable allowance.

1. Residents shall be provided an allowance no less frequently than once per month, unless regulatory exception criteria are met. 84072(a)(2).
2. Residents shall possess and use their own cash resources except as specified in Section 84026. 84072(b)(8).
3. Residents' allowances may not be withheld unless regulatory criteria are met. Any amount of a resident's allowance that is withheld as a form of discipline must meet the requirements of 84026(a-c), including the requirements that the fines shall be used for the benefit of the individual resident or all residents in placement, separate accounting, etc. The circumstances under which fines are to be imposed shall be specified in writing. Allowances may not be withheld because a resident is working. 84026(a-c).
4. Residents' cash resources, including allowances, shall not be used for any basic services specified in the regulation, such as toilet articles or basic clothing needs. 80026(f).

I have read and understand and have had explained to me any question I had regarding the above procedures.

Child

Date

Authorized Representative

Date

I have explained the above policies and have answered any questions asked me regarding these procedures.

Intake Worker

Date