

# IOWA FOSTER CHILD AND YOUTH BILL OF RIGHTS

Every child in foster care has the same rights belonging inherently to all children.

This Iowa Bill of Rights was developed by youth, with the support of youth advocates and the Department of Human Services. This is intended to be a resource that children and youth in foster care can use to advocate for themselves. All adults in the lives of children and youth in foster care can keep this as a reminder to always uphold these rights and show children and youth the respect they deserve. These rights were identified by youth representatives from Iowa's Foster Care Youth Council, known as AMP. AMP-Achieving Maximum Potential is a youth driven, statewide advocacy group that seeks to unleash the full potential for personal growth among children and youth experiencing foster, adoptive and kinship care.

Service providers and case managers are encouraged to provide this list to the children and youth in your lives. Because all children and youth are unique, discuss this with them in a manner in which they can understand.

You have the right to be treated with respect.

You have the right to be safe and well cared for.

You have the right to be who you are.

You have the right to lifelong family connections.

You have the right to be fully informed about what is happening to you.

You have the right to be told why you are in the child welfare system.

You have the right to know when court hearings are scheduled and to attend hearings regarding your care.

You have the right to a qualified advocate.

You have the right to adequate health care, including mental health care.

You have the right to a good, stable education.

You have the right to receive skills, knowledge and resources needed to be an independent adult.

You have the right to permanency.

You have the right to seek assistance if these rights aren't being met.

