Iowa Foster Child and Youth Bill of Rights

I have the right to be treated with respect.

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

I have the right to be who I am.

I have the right to lifelong family connections.

I have the right to be fully informed about what is happening to me.

I have the right to be told why I am in the child welfare system.

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

I have the right to a good, stable education.

I have the right to permanency.

I have the right to know when court hearings are scheduled and to attend hearings regarding my care.

I have the right to a qualified advocate.

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

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

Responsibilities for Children and Youth in Care

I am responsible for my choices, decisions, actions and behaviors. I understand that I make the biggest difference in my life.

I know I will make mistakes but I hope to learn from them and make positive choices for my life to create a bright future.

I will treat myself and others with respect; I will follow the golden rule and treat others as I wish to be treated.

I promise to make every effort to take the necessary actions not to cause harm to myself or others.

I will do my best to communicate openly with people when I have a problem and try to ask for help when I need it… but please remember I may have trouble asking for help.

I will try to work to the best of my ability in school and achieve the educational goals that I need to be a productive and successful person.

I have the responsibility to ask for help in learning life skills I need for becoming an independent young adult.

I will make an effort to be involved in and cooperate with suggested mental health treatment.

Respectfully I ask that you do not judge me by my past, instead get to know me for the person I am today.

Family connections are very important to me. I know I am responsible for setting and keeping safe boundaries with my family members. I am also responsible for making amends for any of my former actions that may have caused someone harm.

I will try to be courageous and speak up when I feel my rights have been violated.

Every child in foster care has the same rights belonging inherently to all children. Achieving Maximum Potential (AMP) 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. AMP asks that service providers, court professionals, and case managers provide the Foster Care Bill of Rights and Responsibilities document to children and youth in care. Because each child and youth is unique, discuss in a manner which he or she can understand. This Iowa Foster Care Bill of Rights and Responsibilities was developed by children and youth, with the support of the Department of Human Services and mentoring from other youth advocates. This is a resource that children and youth can use to advocate for themselves and adults can keep this as a reminder to always uphold these rights and show children and youth the respect they deserve. The responsibilities are to be used as encouragement to uplift and support youth in their development and successful transition toward becoming successful young adults.

Iowa Department of Human Services

AMP Achieving Maximum Potential

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