

Amara

Amara's Rights of Children and Youth in Foster Care

Amara believes all youth in foster care deserve to have their wellbeing paramount during their time in care. Therefore, we make the commitment to advocate to ensure that any youth placed in an Amara foster home will have the following rights met. This document was adapted from the [Rights of Children and Youth in Foster Care](#) created by Passion to Action and The Mockingbird Society.

- *Youth have the right to be treated fairly and equally, whatever their gender, gender identity, race, religion, ethnicity, national origin, disability, medical diagnosis, mental illness, or sexual orientation and to be addressed by their stated gender pronouns.*
- *Youth have the right to have basic needs met (food, clothing, shelter, health care, and education) and the right to be made aware of their rights.*
- *Youth have a right to participate in “typical” childhood activities (overnights with friends, after-school activities, sport, etc.).*
- *Youth have the right to be free from cruel, frightening, or unsafe discipline.*
- *Youth have the right to practice their own religion or not at all.*
- *Youth have the right to report abuse, neglect, exploitation or violation of their personal rights without fear of punishment, interference, or coercion.*
- *Youth have the right to have someone appointed to represent their best interests in their case, such as a Guardian Ad Litem (GAL) or a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA).*
- *Youth have the right to maintain regular contact or visits with their parents and siblings when separated, unless the court orders that contact or visits are not appropriate.*
- *Youth have the right to attend school, and to attend their school of origin whenever possible.*
- *Youth have the right to be placed in a residence where they are safe, that can meet their needs, and provide appropriate privacy for their personal needs.*
- *If 14 years old or older, youth have the right to be consulted about their permanent plan.*
- *At the age of 12, youth have the right to an attorney to represent their stated interests in their case.*

Amara works to ensure that every child in foster care has the love and support of a committed family – as quickly as possible, and for as long as each child needs.