



Notice of Rights for a Child in Out-of-Home Care

PART A. Know Your Rights

You, as a child in out-of-home care, have the right to:

- Live with a relative or in a place that is like a family, with your siblings, or close to your siblings, if possible, that provides supervision and guidance that you need, allows you to participate in normal, age appropriate activities, and where you are safe from being taken advantage of.
- Live in a safe, healthy and comfortable home where your caregivers speak the same language as you, show you respect, keep you safe, give you personal privacy, healthy food in appropriate portions, and clothing that fits comfortably and is weather appropriate.
- Have personal possessions (as long as they are appropriate) and enough personal space to store all of your belongings in your home.
- Know why you are in out-of-home care and what will happen to you, your siblings and family. You also have the right to help create your case plan and permanency plan, participate in case plan and permanency planning meetings, and receive a copy or summary of each plan and review. You may request someone to participate on your behalf or to support you in this participation.
- Have visits and contact with your family, including siblings, while you are away from home, with any restrictions explained to you in a way you can understand.
- Receive guidance and non-physical discipline that is appropriate to your age and maturity level to help you develop and maintain positive behaviors, self-control, self-reliance and self-esteem.
- To remain in your current school, if possible, or to be enrolled in another school setting, as appropriate.
- Go to community, school, extracurricular and religious services and activities of your choice, as agreed to by your caregivers, and to receive an education that meets your individual needs.
- Engage in healthy activities to learn life skills appropriate for your age, and be able to do things that your friends who are not in out of home care are doing.
- Learn how to take care of your personal hygiene and grooming.
- Have contact information for your DCS Specialist, attorney and advocate, speak with them in private if necessary, and attend court hearings represented by an attorney and speak to the judge.
- Have your records and personal information kept private and only given to people who need the information in order to take care of you, and on a need to know basis.
- Have necessary medical, dental, vision, behavioral health and substance abuse treatment and services, to be informed about diagnoses and treatment options as appropriate, and to be free of unnecessary or excessive medication.
- Contact the Arizona Protection and Advocacy System for Disability Assistance at center@azdisabilitylaw.org or by calling 1-800-922-1447 or 1-800-927-2260. The Arizona Center for Disability Law is a protection and advocacy system that makes sure the rights of persons with disabilities are protected by investigating reports of abuse and neglect and violations of the rights of persons with disabilities.
- To understand and receive a copy of these rights, and to report a violation of these rights without fear of punishment. To report a violation, you may contact your DCS Specialist, the DCS Ombudsman at 602-364-0777 (Toll Free 877-527-0765) or Ombudsman@azdcs.gov, Ombudsman-Citizens' Aide at 602-277-7292 or Ombuds@azoca.gov, your attorney/GAL or speak to the judge in court. You may also write to the judge.

If you are at least fourteen years of age you also have the right to:

- Attend life skills training and participate in activities that allow you to practice these skills.
- Help develop your permanency plan with the assistance of up to two other people that you may choose from the permanency planning team, not including a foster parent or your DCS Specialist.
- Receive a copy of your credit report every year, and get help fixing it if it contains information that is wrong.
- A transition plan that includes career planning and assistance with enrolling in an educational or vocational job training program.
- Be informed of educational opportunities before you leave out-of-home care including information about assistance and funding for education.
- To participate in or re-enter extended foster care from ages 18 to 21, if eligible.
- Assistance in obtaining a place to live when you are ready to leave out-of-home care.
- Request a court hearing to determine if you can consent to your own medical care.
- Receive help with obtaining a driver license, Social Security number, birth certificate or state identification card before turning 18.
- Receive personal information prior to being discharged from out-of-home care, including your birth certificate, Social Security card, health insurance information and medical records including immunization records, educational records, and a driver's license or equivalent state-issued identification card.

For a child 12 years and older, please sign and confirm you have received a copy of A.R.S. § 8-529 and the "Notice of Rights for A Child in Out-of-Home Care," and have discussed them with my DCS Specialist.

_____	_____	_____
<i>Child's Name (Printed)</i>	<i>Child's Signature</i>	<i>Date</i>
_____	_____	_____
<i>DCS Specialist's Name(Printed)</i>	<i>DCS Specialist's Signature</i>	<i>Date</i>

Part B. Contact Information

My DCS Specialist

<i>Name</i>	<i>Phone</i>	<i>Email</i>
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My Attorney(s) or Advocate

<i>Name</i>	<i>Phone</i>	<i>Email</i>
<i>Name</i>	<i>Phone</i>	<i>Email</i>

Other important people in my life

<i>Name</i>	<i>Phone</i>	<i>Email</i>
<i>Name</i>	<i>Phone</i>	<i>Email</i>
<i>Name</i>	<i>Phone</i>	<i>Email</i>
<i>Name</i>	<i>Phone</i>	<i>Email</i>



Equal Opportunity Employer/Program. The Department of Child Safety (DCS) prohibits discrimination in admissions, programs, services, activities, or employment based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, genetics, or retaliation or any other status protected by federal law, state law, or regulation. Reasonable accommodations to allow a person with a disability to take part in a program, service, or activity are available upon request. To request this document in alternative format or for further information about this policy contact your local office. TTY/TDD Services: 7-1-1. Free language assistance for DCS services is available upon request. Ayuda gratuita con traducciones relacionadas con los servicios del DCS esta disponible a solicitud del cliente.



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- Live in a safe, healthy and comfortable home where your caregivers speak the same language as you, show you respect, keep you safe, give you personal privacy, healthy food in appropriate portions, and clothing that fits comfortably and is weather appropriate.
- Have personal possessions (as long as they are appropriate) and enough personal space to store all of your belongings in your home.
- Know why you are in out-of-home care and what will happen to you, your siblings and family. You also have the right to help create your case plan and permanency plan, participate in case plan and permanency planning meetings, and receive a copy or summary of each plan and review. You may request someone to participate on your behalf or to support you in this participation.
- Have visits and contact with your family, including siblings, while you are away from home, with any restrictions explained to you in a way you can understand.
- Receive guidance and non-physical discipline that is appropriate to your age and maturity level to help you develop and maintain positive behaviors, self-control, self-reliance and self-esteem.
- To remain in your current school, if possible, or to be enrolled in another school setting, as appropriate.
- Go to community, school, extracurricular and religious services and activities of your choice, as agreed to by your caregivers, and to receive an education that meets your individual needs.
- Engage in healthy activities to learn life skills appropriate for your age, and be able to do things that your friends who are not in out of home care are doing.
- Learn how to take care of your personal hygiene and grooming.
- Have contact information for your DCS Specialist, attorney and advocate, speak with them in private if necessary, and attend court hearings represented by an attorney and speak to the judge.
- Have your records and personal information kept private and only given to people who need the information in order to take care of you, and on a need to know basis.
- Have necessary medical, dental, vision, behavioral health and substance abuse treatment and services, to be informed about diagnoses and treatment options as appropriate, and to be free of unnecessary or excessive medication.
- Contact the Arizona Protection and Advocacy System for Disability Assistance at center@azdisabilitylaw.org or by calling 1-800-922-1447 or 1-800-927-2260. The Arizona Center for Disability Law is a protection and advocacy system that makes sure the rights of persons with disabilities are protected by investigating reports of abuse and neglect and violations of the rights of persons with disabilities.
- To understand and receive a copy of these rights, and to report a violation of these rights without fear of punishment. To report a violation, you may contact your DCS Specialist, the DCS Ombudsman at 602-364-0777 (Toll Free 877-527-0765) or Ombudsman@azdcs.gov, Ombudsman-Citizens' Aide at 602-277-7292 or Ombuds@azoca.gov, your attorney/GAL or speak to the judge in court. You may also write to the judge.

If you are at least fourteen years of age you also have the right to:

- Attend life skills training and participate in activities that allow you to practice these skills.
- Help develop your permanency plan with the assistance of up to two other people that you may choose from the permanency planning team, not including a foster parent or your DCS Specialist.
- Receive a copy of your credit report every year, and get help fixing it if it contains information that is wrong.
- A transition plan that includes career planning and assistance with enrolling in an educational or vocational job training program.
- Be informed of educational opportunities before you leave out-of-home care including information about assistance and funding for education.
- To participate in or re-enter extended foster care from ages 18 to 21, if eligible.
- Assistance in obtaining a place to live when you are ready to leave out-of-home care.
- Request a court hearing to determine if you can consent to your own medical care.
- Receive help with obtaining a driver license, Social Security number, birth certificate or state identification card before turning 18.
- Receive personal information prior to being discharged from out-of-home care, including your birth certificate, Social Security card, health insurance information and medical records including immunization records, educational records, and a driver's license or equivalent state-issued identification card.

For a child 12 years and older, please sign and confirm you have received a copy of A.R.S. § 8-529 and the "Notice of Rights for A Child in Out-of-Home Care," and have discussed them with my DCS Specialist.

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<i>Child's Name (Printed)</i>	<i>Child's Signature</i>	<i>Date</i>
_____	_____	_____
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PART C. Arizona Revised Statutes (A.R.S.) § 8-529

A. A child in foster care or kinship foster care has the following rights:

1. To appropriate care and treatment in the least restrictive setting available that can meet the child's needs according to the best judgment of the foster parent.
2. To live in a safe, healthy and comfortable placement where the child can receive reasonable protection from harm and appropriate privacy for personal needs and where the child is treated with respect.
3. To be placed with a relative when such placement is in the best interest of the child.
4. To be placed with or in close proximity to the child's siblings when possible and to visit and have contact with siblings and family members when it is in the best interest of the child.
5. To know why the child is in foster care and what will happen to the child and to the child's family, including siblings, and case plans.
6. Whenever possible, to be placed with a foster family that can accommodate the child's communication needs.
7. To be disciplined in a manner that is appropriate to the child's level of maturity and not be subjected to physical discipline methods.
8. To attend community, school, extracurricular and religious services and activities of the child's choice to the extent that is appropriate for the child, as planned and discussed with the child's placement worker and caseworker and based on caregiver ability if transportation is available through a responsible party.
9. To go to school and receive an education that fits the child's age and individual needs. If remaining in the child's current school is not in the child's best interest, the child has the right to be enrolled in the least restrictive school available.
10. To training in personal care, hygiene and grooming.
11. To clothing that fits comfortably and is adequate to protect the child against natural elements such as rain, snow, wind, cold and sun.
12. To have personal possessions at home and to acquire additional possessions within reasonable limits, as planned and discussed with the child's foster parent, placement worker and caseworker, and based on caregiver ability.
13. To personal space, preferably in the child's foster home bedroom for storing clothing and belongings.
14. To healthy foods in healthy portions that are appropriate for the child's age.
15. To comply with any approved visitation plan, and to have any restrictions explained to the child in a manner and level of details deemed age appropriate by the foster parent in agreement with the caseworker and documented in the child's record.
16. If the child is six years of age or older, to receive contact information for the child's caseworker, attorney or advocate and to speak with them in private if necessary.
17. To be represented by an attorney in all proceedings initiated pursuant to this title.
18. To participate in age appropriate child's service planning and permanency planning meetings and to be given a copy or summary of each service plan and service plan review. The child may request someone to participate on the child's behalf or to support the child in this participation.
19. To attend the child's court hearing and speak to the judge.
20. To have the child's records and personal information kept private and discussed only when it is about the child's care except the foster parent shall have full access to the records to determine if the child will be successful in the home. During the foster placement, if the foster parent requests to view the record upon experiencing problems with the child's adjustment, the full record shall be made available for viewing by the foster parent.
21. To receive medical, dental, vision and mental health services and to be informed about diagnoses and treatment options as is developmentally appropriate.

22. To be free of unnecessary or excessive medication.

23. To receive emotional, mental health or chemical dependency treatment separately from adults who are receiving services, as planned and discussed with the child's placement worker and caseworker, as is financially reasonable for the foster parent.

24. To report a violation of personal rights specified in this section without fear of punishment, interference, coercion or retaliation, except that an appropriate level of punishment may be applied if the child is proven to have maliciously or wrongfully accused the foster parent.

25. To be informed in writing of the name, address, telephone number and purpose of the Arizona protection and advocacy system for disability assistance.

26. To understand and have a copy of the rights listed in this section.

B. A child in foster care who is at least fourteen years of age has the following rights:

1. To attend preparation for adult living classes and activities as appropriate to the child's case plan, as is financially reasonable for the foster parent.
2. To a transition plan that includes career planning and assistance with enrolling in an educational or vocational job training program.
3. To be informed of educational opportunities, including information regarding assistance and funding for postsecondary and vocational education.
4. To assistance in obtaining an independent residency when the child is too old to remain in foster care from the child's caseworker, attorney or advocate.
5. To request a court hearing for a court to determine if the child has the capacity to consent to medical care that is directly related to an illness, disease, deformity or other physical malady.
6. To receive help with obtaining a driver license, social security number, birth certificate or state identification card and credit reports with assistance in interpreting the reports and resolving inaccuracies in the report. The foster parent shall have discretion to determine if the child is responsible and mature enough to become a licensed driver.
7. To receive necessary personal information within thirty days after leaving foster care, including the child's birth certificate, immunization records and information contained in the child's education portfolio and health passport.
8. To participate in or re-enter extended foster care when the child is at least eighteen and under twenty-one years of age pursuant to section 8-521.02.

C. The Department shall provide information regarding a child's rights pursuant to this section and assistance in understanding and enforcing these rights to each child who enters foster care or kinship foster care or when there is a change in the child's foster care plan. The information shall also include the telephone number and email address of the Department, the child's assigned case manager, the Department's Office of the Ombudsman and the Ombudsman-Citizens Aide. A copy of these rights shall be posted in a conspicuous place in all foster care and group homes.

D. If a child who is in foster care or kinship foster care believes that the child's rights under this section have been violated, the child or the child's representative may:

1. File a complaint with the Department, the Department's Office of the Ombudsman or the Ombudsman-citizens Aide pursuant to section 41-1376. A formal grievance may be initiated with the Ombudsman at any time.
2. Notify the juvenile court in the child's ongoing dependency, severance or adoption proceeding, either orally or in writing, that the child's rights are being violated and request appropriate equitable relief. The court shall act on the notification as necessary within its discretion to promote the best interest of the child.

E. The rights provided in this section do not establish an independent cause of action.



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