IOWA | Health and Human Services

Rights of Youth in Out-of-Home Placement

Health

- ☐ You have the right to receive annual physicals including eye, ear, and dental exams. You also have the right to any routine, follow-up, and emergency treatment, as needed.
- ☐ You have the right to have your mental health needs assessed by a professional, and to receive recommended treatment and services.

  If you are prescribed medications, you have the right to be informed of the nature of your condition, the risks and benefits of treatment with the medications, other forms of treatment, as well as the risks of no treatment.
- ☐ If you leave foster care at age 18 or older, you have the right to receive your most up-to-date health records and options for continued health care coverage.
- ☐ You have the right to stay safe and free from abuse or exploitation.
- ☐ At age 18 or older, you have the right to appoint a durable power of attorney for health care. In case you ever become unable to participate in health care decisions and you do not have or do not want a relative who would otherwise be authorized under state law to make such decisions, the person appointed will make health care decisions for you.

Education

- ☐ You have the right to education stability. If you must change schools, you have the right to be enrolled in your new school immediately, and to receive assistance in getting your credits transferred.
- ☐ You have the right to be enrolled in an appropriate educational setting that is fitting for you. If you need special services, those will be made available to you.
- ☐ You have the right to receive assistance with your educational and career goals and review your goals regularly with your caseworker and transition team. Your transition team should assist you with college planning and Financial Aid Applications.
- ☐ You have the right to participate in extra-curricular activities. In general, fees related to school classes and related activities are waived for children in foster care.
- ☐ If you leave foster care at age 18 or older, you have the right to be provided with your education records.

Visitation

☐ You have the right to be placed close to your home proximity, and with your siblings, and to receive an explanation if there are reasons that this cannot occur.

☐ You have the right to reasonable communication and visitation with your parents, relatives, fictive kin and siblings, unless it would not be positive to you or your family member's physical or emotional well-being.

☐ You have the right to contact, visit, and exchange information with your foster care placement before moving there.

☐ You have the right to monthly visits with a caseworker. If you are placed out-of-state, you have the right to be visited by a caseworker monthly. You also have the right to communicate privately with your attorney and worker about any concerns you are having.

Court Participation

☐ You have the right to representation through a guardian ad-litem and an attorney, if necessary, to advocate for your best interests and desires.

☐ You have the right to identify two people to help you develop your case plan, who may also advocate for you to participate in healthy opportunities and activities that interest you.

☐ You have the right to participate in your court hearings and case reviews which will determine if your foster care placement is still appropriate for you and if you are receiving the services, supports, activities, and referrals to programs that would best assist you in preparing for successful adulthood.

Documents

☐ If any consumer credit reports exist for you, you have the right to receive a copy every year while you are in foster care. Your caseworker will assist you in understanding the credit report and resolving any inaccuracies.

☐ If you leave foster care at age 18 or older, you have the right to receive your certified birth certificate, social security card, and driver's license or state identification card.

My worker has gone through my rights with me in a way that I understand and answered any questions I had. I understand my rights for health, education, visitation, court participation, and documents I am to receive. I have received a copy of this document.

Youth's Signature	Date