

What are Rights and Responsibilities?

Rights are like rules that define how you should be treated by others. Responsibilities are also like rules that define what others should be able to expect of you. They set a framework for you and others to live together. When you live somewhere new, you may feel lonely or scared. You might even be worried about what is going to happen to you next. Therefore, it is important for you to know that you have rights and responsibilities, what they are, and what you can do if you have a concern(s).



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Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario
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Child and Family Services Review Board
15 Grosvenor St, Ground Floor,
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Telephone: 416-327-0111; 1-888-777-3616
TTY: Call the Bell Relay Service at 1-800-855-0511
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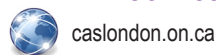
Residential Placement Advisory Committee
Telephone 519-438-4783
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Kids Help Line
Telephone: 1-800-668-6868



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Rights and Responsibilities

A Guide for Children and Youth in Care



As a Child/Youth in Care, You Have the Right:

- to be respected for who you are. This includes your language, religion, family background, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation and special needs.
- to be provided with services in your preferred language and to be free of discrimination based on your race, ancestry, place of origin, colour, ethnic origin, citizenship, family diversity, disability, creed, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and culture.
- to name a resource person of your choice to act on a voluntary basis to help ensure that all aspects of your identity are taken into consideration when making decisions about you.
- to feel safe. No one has the right to hit you or hurt you in any way; put you in a locked space; restrain you unless authorized by law or medical practitioner; take away your basic necessities such as food, shelter, clothing or bedding; or to humiliate or shame you.
- to reasonable privacy and visit your family without anyone else around, unless a judge determines it is not the best thing for you.
- to speak privately with your Worker, your lawyer, Ombudsman, or a politician.
- if you are First Nation, Inuit or Métis to have private access to a representative of your band or community (i.e., Elder).
- You have a right to send and receive letters read only by you except in some circumstances as permitted by law.
- to go to school; to receive medical care to keep you healthy; to food that is good for your body; to have clothing that fits well and keeps you warm; to have access to technology, to play sports, make art and do other recreational and cultural activities; and

to worship and practice religion of your choice including opportunity to attend faith based and spiritual events/activities.

- to be included in important decisions concerning yourself like your health and counselling needs, subject to age and maturity.
- to tell someone if you have a problem and ask for help including how to access complaint procedures or how to request a review of your placement if you are unhappy with where you are living or where you will be moving to.
- to have a service provider respond to your complaint and try to resolve it.
- to express your views on collection, use and disclosure of your personal information; to receive copies of your plan of care; to request and receive access to your CAS file and to seek correction of errors; to write down and add information to your file; and to be told if your privacy is breached. You do not have the right to confidential information about other people.
- to be prepared for independence and to request the Ready Set Go Program after the age of 18 years if you are in Extended Society Care or meet certain other criteria.

You have responsibilities as well while in your placement. These include:

- meeting with and talking to your Worker;
- following the house rules in your placement;
- taking responsibility for your actions;
- accepting the consequences when you break the rules;
- respecting the rights, property, privacy, diversity and special needs of others;
- attending school and doing your homework;
- attending your appointments;
- utilizing technology in a safe and responsible manner.

If You Are Over the Age of 12 Years

- You have the right to be notified of, and to attend court hearings affecting your life, except in rare instance where the court decides it is not in your best interest
- You have the right to request and participate in a placement review by the Residential Placement Advisory Committee established by the Ministry of Children and Youth Services if you object to where you are placed or are going to be replaced to.

What if I Have a Problem and Need Help?

If you have a problem or concern, you have the right to tell someone and to be heard. Talk to your care provider/parent/teacher/friend or your worker. If that doesn't help, talk to your worker's Supervisor or Service Director or request a formal review of your complaint.

You can write a letter of complaint and send it to your Worker's Supervisor. Ask your Worker for a copy of our "Procedure for Review of Service Complaints" brochure or visit our website page.

If you have tried to solve your problem, but you think you need to talk to your lawyer, to someone at Ombudsman Ontario, the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario, the Residential Placement Advisory Committee or the Child and Family Services Review Board ask someone you trust to help make the contact.