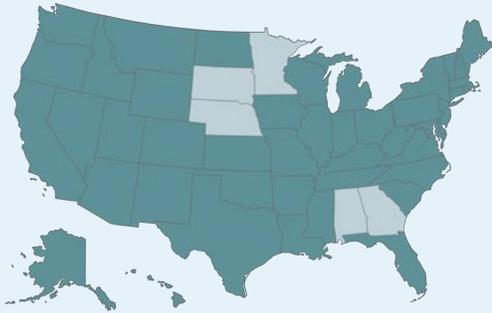




Foster Youth Bill of Rights - Fact Sheet - SF3154 / HF3024



**5 of 50**

states (including MN)  
**do not have rights**  
for foster youth in  
statute or policy



**2 of 3**

foster youth are  
**school-age** or older

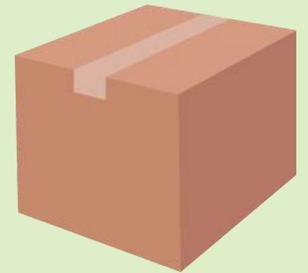
**5,865**

average number of  
**children and youth** in  
foster care on a given  
day in 2024.



**1,208**

children who **moved 2 or more**  
**times** in foster care.



**755 million**  
spent in MN on child  
welfare services in 2020.

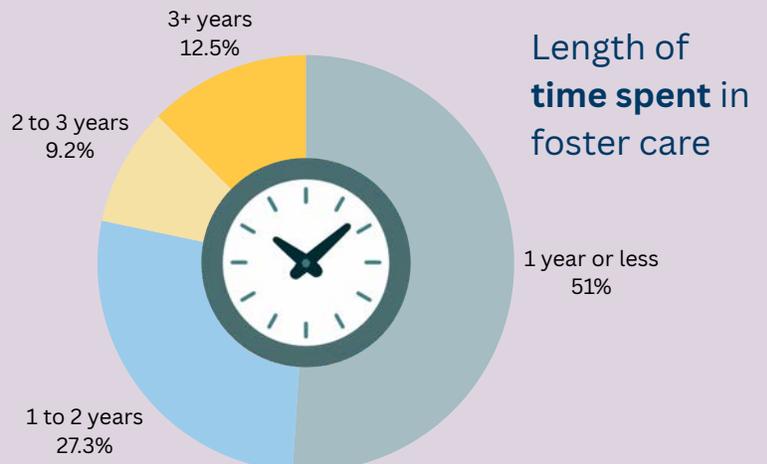
**6.5%**

more children **re-entered**  
**foster care** in MN (vs. the  
federal benchmark).

Each of the **87 Minnesota**  
**counties** has a different  
approach to foster care.



Children and youth  
deserve **clear rights**  
during the instability and  
confusion of foster care.



Length of  
**time spent** in  
foster care

1 year or less  
51%

1 to 2 years  
27.3%

2 to 3 years  
9.2%

3+ years  
12.5%

## Foster Youth Bill of Rights – [SF3154/HF3024](#)

**Date:** March 2026

**From:** The Minnesota Office of the Foster Youth Ombudsperson (OOFY)

**Re:** Proposed Foster Youth Bill of Rights, Seeking Support and Providing Information

**Chief Authors:** Representative Jessica Hanson and Senator Mary Kunesh

### Contents

1. Memo
2. Minnesota Indian Affairs Council Resolution ([link](#))
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4. Line-by-line References and Sources ([link](#))

### Background

Minnesota is one of only five states that does not have the rights of foster youth codified in statute, administrative code, or agency policy. Of the eleven states whose child welfare systems are county-administered or hybrid models, Minnesota is the only state without foster youth rights collected in one place.

Foster youth often experience frequent moves, disrupted relationships, and instability. The challenge of improving foster care outcomes in Minnesota is compounded by the high degree of variation in standards seen from county to county.

Right now, foster youth's rights are unclear, incomplete, and spread across different sections of state and federal statute. A single, consolidated Foster Youth Bill of Rights ensures that everyone, in every county in Minnesota, is operating from the same standard and provides clarity on the safeguards for foster youth who are often the most vulnerable children and youth.

### Bill Development and Consultation

In initial draft development, OOFY reviewed:

- The rights documents for foster youth in 45 other states;
- Other Minnesota initiatives, including foster youth rights and the Rights of the Indian Child and;
- Minnesota Bills of Rights for other populations, such as residents in assisted living facilities.

The initial draft was shared with 30+ former Minnesota foster youth to better understand priorities and gaps. At various phases, input was gathered from over 100 people in all roles, including:

- Foster and adoptive parents,
- Biological relatives,
- Guardians ad litem,
- Attorneys,
- Judges,
- Social workers, and;
- Others.

OOFY has also incorporated and responded to technical assistance from:

- The Minnesota Department of Children, Youth, and Families,
- The Minnesota Association of County Social Service Administrators Children’s Committee leadership,
- The Office of Ombudsman for Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities,
- The Minnesota Council for LGBTQIA2S+ Minnesotans, and;
- Other community organizations.

OOFY has consulted with ombudsperson offices in other states, and relevant national groups such as the National Association of Council for Children.

## About OOFY

The [Office of the Foster Youth Ombudsperson](#) (OOFY) hears concerns and complaints from anyone, prioritizing concerns from young people about their rights, care, safety, and placement in Minnesota foster care. OOFY is an independent, neutral state agency that is fully separate from the Department of Children, Youth, and Families. OOFY was created through the advocacy of people with experience in foster care.



## INDIAN AFFAIRS COUNCIL      RESOLUTION 12042025\_02

### Foster Youth Bill of Rights

**WHEREAS**, the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council membership consists of representatives of ten of the eleven federally-recognized Indian Tribes located within the State of Minnesota, members of the legislature, commissioners from the state department; and

**WHEREAS**, the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council is a liaison between the state and local units of government in the delivery of services to American Indians in the State of Minnesota; and

**WHEREAS**, American Indian populations are often identified by the various federal and state agencies as a minority and smallest ethnic group in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, American Indian people are citizens of, or descendants of citizens of sovereign nations, federally recognized tribes, and possess a unique political status that is not racial or ethnic in nature; and

**WHEREAS**, Minnesota is one of only five states that does not have a comprehensive set of rights codified for foster youth, leaving youth in care and their supporters without the information or tools to advocate for themselves effectively; and

**WHEREAS**, the Minnesota Foster Youth Bill of Rights was introduced to ensure youth are informed of their rights while in foster care and to strengthen existing legal protections; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed bill is intended to complement existing laws and protections and does not replace or diminish the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) or the Minnesota Indian Family Preservation Act (MIFPA).

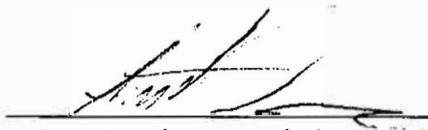
**WHEREAS**, Native youth are significantly overrepresented in the foster care system, and the proposed bill provides additional support and protections for all foster youth; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed bill was developed in collaboration with and through the consultation of current and former Minnesota foster youth, along with input from agency staff, attorneys, Guardians ad Litem, non-profit professionals, members of the MIFPA Phase III workgroup, and through a review of foster youth rights legislation in 45 other states, and the proposed *Rights of the Indian Child*; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed bill provides strengthened protections for foster youth's relationships with siblings, family, extended family, and relatives as defined by youth or tribal traditions, the right to be free from all forms of maltreatment, the right to connection with community, including language, people, and events, and the right to practice their own spirituality and religious beliefs; and

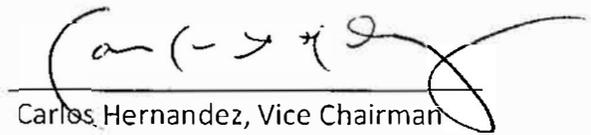
**THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED**, that the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council hereby extends support for the passage and implementation of the Minnesota Foster Youth Bill of Rights introduced in the 2025 legislative session, SF3154/HF3024 as authored by Senator Mary Kunesh and Representative Jessica Hanson.

**CERTIFICATION:** We do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly presented and acted upon by a vote of 7 For, 0 Against, 0 Silent at Regular Meeting of the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council, a quorum present, held on December 04, 2025, in Lower Sioux Indian Community, Cansayapi, Minnesota.



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Robert Deschampe, Chairman  
Minnesota Indian Affairs Council



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Carlos Hernandez, Vice Chairman  
Minnesota Indian Affairs Council



March 10, 2026

**Re: H3024/SF3154 | Foster Youth Bill of Rights**

Dear Committee Chair(s) and Members:

As individuals and organizations dedicated to the wellbeing, support, and empowerment of Fosters here in Minnesota, we are writing to urge the committee to pass HF3024/SF3154, the Foster Youth Bill of Rights. We believe this critical legislation represents an essential step in ensuring that every child and youth in Minnesota's foster care system is treated with dignity, fairness, and respect.

Foster youth face unique and often overwhelming challenges as they navigate their way through the foster care system. Many of these young people experience a sense of instability and uncertainty, and too often, they do so without a clear understanding of their rights or the processes to raise concerns when those rights are violated. The lack of a consistent, accessible framework has left many foster youth feeling isolated and powerless, unable to advocate for themselves in situations that affect their safety, well-being, and future.

Minnesota is one of only five states without a Foster Youth Bill of Rights, making Minnesota behind the curve in addressing this lack of clarity for foster youth. HF3024/SF3154 seeks to address these issues by providing a comprehensive, clearly defined, and easily accessible set of rights for Minnesota foster youth. This bill consolidates and strengthens legal protections into a single, cohesive document that outlines the rights of foster youth, making it easier for them to understand and exercise those rights. This bill is a step toward eliminating confusion and providing foster youth and those who support them with the advocacy tools they need to thrive in a complex system.

Additionally, the bill will help promote consistency and fairness across the state, ensuring that foster youth, no matter where they are living, are afforded the same rights, protections, and opportunities. It will create a standard of care that ensures every youth is treated with the respect and dignity they deserve, fostering a more equitable and supportive environment for all youth in care.

We strongly support the passage of HF3024/3154 and encourage all those who care about the wellbeing and future of Minnesota Fosters to join us in advocating for its passage.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our support on HF3024/SF3154.

Sincerely, the following organizations and individuals,

(\*) Indicates individuals with lived experience in foster care

**Ampersand Families** – Christina Zeise, Executive Director

**Atlas of Blackness** – Lucina Kayee\*, MSW, LGSW, Executive Director, and licensed psychotherapist

**Children’s Advocacy Institute** - Amy Harfeld, National Policy Director

**Children’s Justice Task Force** – Dawn Hyland\*, Survivor of Foster Care

**Connections to Independence** - Jessica Rogers\*, Founder & Executive Director

**Councils for Minnesotans of African Heritage** – Theodore Rose, Managing Director, Policy

**Department of Indian Work** – Theresa Halvorson-Lee, Director

**Ed Allies** – Joshua Crosson, Executive Director

**Family Alternatives** – Mary Lennick, Executive Director

**Face to Face Health & Counseling** – Hanna Getachew-Kreusser, MA, Chief Executive Officer

**Foster Advocates** – Osahon Akpata-Tanious, MPP

**Greater Twin Cities United Way** – Ivette Izea-Martinez, Sr. Program Officer, Advocacy

**Journie Project** – Nashauna Johnson-Lenoir, Executive Director

**Minnesota Children’s Alliance** – Marcia Milliken, Executive Director

**National Association of Counsel for Children** – Allison Green

**Office of the Indian Ministry at the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis, Gichitwaa Kateri church** – Robert Haarman, Director & Pastoral Administrator

**Office of Ombudsperson for Families** – Muriel Gubasta, Ombudsperson for Spanish-speaking and Hispanic/Latino Families

**Office of Ombudsman for Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities** – Lisa Harrison-Hadler, Ombudsman

**Ogilvie Public Schools** – Jacqueline Forcelle, LSW, mental health practitioner

**People Serving People** – Hoang Murphy\*, President & CEO

**Power of Story** – Alisa Matheson, Executive Director

**Research in Action** - Dr. Brittany Lewis, CEO

**SEL Academy** – Tascha Just, Ed.S., NCSP, MSPA President elect (MN School psych assoc), MN’s CJA Task Force Chair

**The Right Reach LLC** - Charie Gill-Baptist\*, Founder/CEO

**Quality Parenting Initiative-MN** – Kathy Duffy, MSW, LICSW, Assistant Director

**Village Arms** – Kelis Houston, Executive Director

**Youthprise** - Kristy Snyder, Policy + System Transformation Officer

Ace Goff\*

Bee Huna\*

Bella Brownlee\*, Foster, educator, advocate

Chelsea Kolgi\*, First Generation Native American College Student

Danielle Thomas\*

Diamond Williams\*, Foster

El Humphrey\*, Foster Advocate

Erin Gantz\*, Professional Advocate

Jessica Smith\*

Kaja Just\*

Kia Jones\*, Community Board Member, Foster Advocates

Keith Riser\*

Lucy Arias\*, MEd, MA

Maci Kean\*, Former Foster Youth, Senior Project Specialist at National Adoption Association

Marlena Jasch\*, Person with Lived Experience & Consultant to the State

Marqueishia Jackson\*, Foster Care Advocate

Mercedes Rosenberg-Thompson\*

Michael D. Davis-Thomas\*, Chair, Michigan Juvenile Justice Advisory Council • Former Chair/President, Statewide Foster Care Advisory Board • CEO & Founder, MDDTSpeaks Holdings, Inc. • Lived Expert Advisor, Michigan Department of Health & Human Services – Children’s Services Agency • Foster Healing Leadership Fellow • Advocate, Author, and National Speaker • Former Dual Ward of the State – Foster Care and Juvenile Justice Systems • Child

Welfare, Juvenile Justice, Education, and Mental Health Reform Leader

Nia Dyer\*

Nicole Anderson\*

Renee Smith\*

Sage Desai\*, Office of the Foster Youth Ombudsperson Advisory Board Member, Foster Advocate Specialist

Sasha Jakovich\*

Shana King\*, Parent Mentor/ Community Outreach Advocate

Tiffany Omete\*, Advocate

Tunisia Reed\*, Village Arms Family Liaison

Travis Matthews\*

Victoria Alonzo\*, YLC Member, Associates in Arts and Science

Whitney Bekaert\*, Foster, Community Engagement Manager

William Woelki\*, PhD Student University of Delaware – Foster Care Researcher

Abigail Carlson, Physics Major, Spanish Major, Engineering Associate 1, Aunty, Sister, Daughter

Abigail Voss

Alec Sanchargin

Alex Valero, CNA

Amelia Didier

Amy Lopez, Wax Lab LLC

Angie Fertig, PhD

Anthony Meng, Author, Paralegal & Storyteller

Aysia Dukes

Barbara Schultz, LSW

Bella Bassat

Brigitte Seim, Professor & Former Foster Parent

Caitlyn Barrett,

Carla Mantel

Corrien Knuckles, MSW

Cresston Gackle, Lawyer & Community Member

DeClara Tripp, Family Liaison/Case Manager

Devin Rhoades

Diane Stang, Former County Foster Care Supervisor

Dustin O'Brien

Elena Leomi, Adoptive parent, MSW, MPH

Emily Geray, BA in Human Services & Psychology | Relationship-Driven Leader | Advocate for Equity, Education, Belonging & Environmental Stewardship | Passionate Mentor & Connector | Committed to Lifting Communities Through Hope and Collaboration

Erika Elbrecht

Evan Johnson

Eyerusalem Cheney

Ezra Jackson-Smith

Grace Johnson

Guinevere Feight

Hannah Osen

Heather Cargill, PsyD, LP (Doctor of Psychology, Licensed Psychologist)

Ida Smith

Jean Ross

Jenna Shreifels

Jennifer Mulligan, Youth Advocate

Jill Stewart-Kellar, Parent, Community Member, Director of Career and College Readiness, Principal

JoAnne Norris, Foster parent

Joe Soss, Cowles Chair for the Study of Public Service, Hubert H. Humphrey School of Public Affairs

John Lagen

Jon Olson, Commander, U.S. Navy (Ret.)

Jordan Moghanaki

Joseph Grobe

Joseph Cobb

Joshua Nygren

Kathleen Wood

Kari Anne Hohn, Child Protection Manager

Kayden Rinzel

Kayla Bogdonavich

Kelly L-T, LSW  
Kourtney Fitzpatrick  
Lacy Hubert, Child Protection Social Worker  
Dr. Lisa Kiesel, PhD, LICSW  
Lisa Marshall  
Livy Clemens, B.A.  
Lynette Kleinschmidt, LSW - Lutheran Social Service  
of MN, Youth Services Willmar Area  
Marlo Gangi, M.A., College faculty  
Marisela Morales  
Mara Borges-Gatewood  
Marie Morrow  
Marvalyne Tripp, Family and Community Advocate,  
MAAFPCWDA Statewide Workgroup Member, CJA  
Task Force Member  
Maylene Payne  
Melissa Franson, Adoptive Parent, Licensed Foster  
Care Provider, Licensed Social Worker  
Melinda Doms, Guardian ad Litem  
Meredith Nance

Moi Boudoir, Foster Care Specialist  
Mohamed Shukri  
Morgan McKee  
Myrka Zambrano  
Mr. Raef Eddins, EBP  
Pamela Kay St. Michel  
Rebecca Dosch, PhD, Public Policy; Interdisciplinary  
Education and Community Engagement Director and  
the UMN Institute on Community Integration  
Rori Coleman-Woods, City Council Member –  
Richfield, Minnesota  
Sadie Berlin  
Samantha Bauer  
Shelly Pacheco  
Stephanie Lindekugel, ISD 622 North St. Paul,  
Maplewood, Oakdale Foster Care Student Support  
Specialist  
Stephen Norton  
Sofia Ali, MD, MPH  
Vanessa Garcia Gomez



**November 1, 2025**

**Re: Support for HF3024/SF3154 | Foster Bill of Rights**

The Ain Dah Yung Center supports the Foster Bill of Rights for Minnesota foster youth – a critical measure that recognizes and affirms the fundamental rights of foster youth within the child welfare system.

Foster youth face unique and complex challenges as they navigate the child welfare system. Many of these young people experience a sense of instability and uncertainty, and too often, they do so with a troubling lack of clarity of what rights they have while in care. This leaves our youth, and those who support them, without the tools and knowledge to effectively advocate for themselves and their rights while in care.

Meaning “Our Home” in Ojibwe, Ain Dah Yung Center provides a healing place within the community for American Indian youth and families to thrive in safety and wholeness. American Indian youth thrive and heal when they have access to their cultural heritage, spiritual beliefs, and tribal communities. The protections provided in the Foster Bill of Rights would ensure Foster youth are supported in maintaining and growing these connections.

The Foster Bill of Rights is a tangible, actionable tool that ensures foster youth are frequently informed of their rights, know how to report violations, and are treated with dignity in every aspect of their time in care. Additionally, the bill will provide consistency and fairness across the state by creating a standard of care, ensuring that regardless of where foster youth live, they are afforded the same rights, protections, and opportunities.

Sincerely,

*Sheri Riemers*

Sheri Riemers, CEO



## Family Preservation Committee

**February 6, 2026**

**Re: Support for HF3024/SF3154 | Foster Bill of Rights**

The Metro Urban Indian Directors (MUID) Family Preservation Committee supports the Foster Bill of Rights for Minnesota foster youth – a critical measure that recognizes and affirms the fundamental rights of foster youth within the child welfare system.

Foster youth face unique and complex challenges as they navigate the child welfare system. Many of these young people experience a sense of instability and uncertainty, and too often, they do so with a troubling lack of clarity of what rights they have while in care. This leaves our youth, and those who support them, without the tools and knowledge to effectively advocate for themselves and their rights while in care.

Many of the American Indian families that we work with have been impacted by the child welfare and foster care systems. This involvement is charged with the historical trauma of the forced removal of American Indian children from their families for decades. American Indian foster youth deserve a right to maintain a relationship with their tribal community and access to their cultures. The Foster Bill of Rights is a step towards protecting this right.

The Foster Bill of Rights is a tangible, actionable tool that ensures foster youth are frequently informed of their rights, know how to report violations, and are treated with dignity in every aspect of their time in care. Additionally, the bill will provide consistency and fairness across the state by creating a standard of care, ensuring that regardless of where foster youth live, they are afforded the same rights, protections, and opportunities.

Sincerely,

Laura Newton, Chair

## Foster Youth Bill of Rights References

### Key

In statute or rule: Exact or substantively the same language.

Partial update. Partially in statute, rule, or practice guidance. Notes regarding revisions included.

Update: New language or language borrowed, taken from foster youth input and other states' guidance.

Proposed language as of 2/13/26	Citation
<p><b>Subd. 3. Physical and emotional safety.</b> While in foster care, foster youth have a right to be safe and free from maltreatment. This includes a foster youth's right to:</p>	
<p><u>(1) appropriate discipline and caregiving that considers the foster youth's unique history and needs. This includes the right to be free from all physical discipline;</u></p>	<p>In statute or rule. <a href="#">2960.3080 - MN Rules Part.</a></p>
<p><u>(2) be free from maltreatment;</u></p>	<p>In statute or rule. <a href="#">2960.3000 - MN Rules Part</a> and Chapter 260E.</p>
<p><u>(3) the rights, protections, and services under section 260C.212 and Minnesota Rules, parts 2960.3000 to 2960.3080;</u></p>	<p>In statute or rule.</p>
<p><u>(4) be free from discipline for the unrelated behavior or action of another, except for the imposition of restrictions on the foster youth's peer group as part of a recognized treatment program;</u></p>	<p>In statute or rule. <a href="#">2960.3080 - MN Rules Part.</a></p>
<p><u>(5) be free from seclusion, in accordance with the laws and policies governing secure facilities;</u></p>	<p>In statute or rule. <a href="#">2960.3080 - MN Rules Part</a> and <a href="#">Sec. 241.0215 MN Statutes.</a></p>
<p><u>(6) be free from physical or chemical restraint used for the purposes of discipline or convenience Physical or chemical restraints must only be used in the case of immediate threat to life or bodily harm and in accordance with the law. De-escalation tactics should be exhausted before these are considered, and the least restrictive interventions should be</u></p>	<p>Partial update.</p> <p>Mechanical restraints limited for some placements, <a href="#">2960.3080 - MN Rules Part.</a></p>

<p><u>prioritized. Any restraint of the foster youth must be documented and shared with the court;</u></p>	<p>Definitions and “discipline or convenience” taken from <a href="#">4658.0300 - MN Rules Part</a> (regarding nursing homes).</p> <p>“De-escalation” language taken from other states.</p>
<p><u>(7) not have law enforcement intervention or placement disruption used as threat, discipline, or retaliation;</u></p>	<p>Update.</p>
<p><u>(8) have law enforcement intervention requested by adult caregivers only as a last resort after other diversion and de-escalation techniques have been used and in circumstances where there is an imminent threat to the health or safety of a person or when a crime may have been committed;</u></p>	<p>Update.</p>
<p><u>(9) appropriate supervision;</u></p>	<p>In statute or rule. <a href="#">2960.3080 - MN Rules Part</a> and <a href="#">2960.3060 - MN Rules Part</a>.</p>
<p><u>(10) be free from discrimination in accordance with section 363A.02. This includes, but is not limited to, avoidable denial or delay of placement or services, more restrictive placement options, and any maltreatment or discipline based on these identities;</u></p>	<p>Partial update.</p> <p><a href="#">Sec. 363A.02 MN Statutes</a>. Added clarification of specific prohibited practices.</p>
<p><u>(11) have appropriate actions taken to keep the foster youth safe and comfortable, if the foster youth shares any information regarding previous or ongoing maltreatment to the foster youth’s family and permanency team. This includes consideration of accommodations so that the foster youth does not need to face a person who harmed the foster youth while exercising their rights;</u></p>	<p>Update.</p>
<p><u>(12) bodily autonomy. This includes being able to refuse physical touch or emotional affection, including, but not limited to, hugs and kisses;</u></p>	<p>Partial update.</p> <p>Expansion of <a href="#">Minnesota Child Foster Care Licensing Guidelines</a>, “right to be physically and emotionally safe.”</p>

<p><u>(13) an age and developmentally appropriate curfew and house rules that are clear and consistent, and explained to the foster youth in a way the foster youth can understand. If the foster youth is living in a residential treatment facility, licensed residential family-based substance use disorder treatment program, qualified residential treatment program, secure detention facility, or shelter care facility as defined in 260C.007, the foster youth should have access to written rules or policies upon entering and at the foster youth’s request; and</u></p>	<p>Partial update.</p> <p>Explain rules in family settings: <a href="#">2960.3080 - MN Rules Part.</a></p> <p>Provide and explain patient rights in other placement settings: <a href="#">2960.0050 - MN Rules Part.</a></p>
<p><u>(14) be provided with alternative pathways in juvenile delinquency court, if available and appropriate, which may include diversionary courts and restorative or transformative justice circles or practices.</u></p>	<p>Update.</p> <p>Diversion program creation under <a href="#">Sec. 388.24 MN Statutes.</a></p>
<p><b>Subd. 4. Basic needs and normalcy.</b> <u>While in foster care, foster youth have a right to have their basic needs met and experience childhood and adolescence in a way similar to peers who are not in foster care. This includes a foster youth’s right to:</u></p>	
<p><u>(1) not have the foster youth’s basic needs withheld as a form of discipline. This includes, but is not limited to, the foster youth’s usual diet, drinking water, clothing, shoes, hygiene facilities, hygiene products, hair care products, medications, menstrual products, comfortable and normal sleeping conditions, proper lighting, educational services, privacy, self-regulation tools, exercise activities, ventilation and proper temperature, visitations, positive reinforcement, nurturing, or healthcare;</u></p>	<p>Partial update.</p> <p><a href="#">2960.3080 - MN Rules Part.</a> Added shoes, hygiene products, hair care products, medications, menstrual products, privacy, self-regulation tools, visitation (changed from family visits).</p> <p><a href="#">Minnesota Child Foster Care Licensing Guidelines</a> “Basic needs” defined including “personal incidentals” with examples given in alignment.</p>
<p><u>(2) sufficient food and beverages that promote the foster youth’s health and nutrition, that are in accordance with the foster youth’s religious, spiritual, and cultural observances, that follow the foster youth’s medically prescribed diet, align with allergies and sensitivities, and that</u></p>	<p>Partial update.</p> <p><a href="#">2960.3080 - MN Rules Part.</a> Adding religious and spiritual alignment.</p>

<u>reasonably align with food aversions. Food must be palatable, of adequate quantity and variety, served at appropriate temperatures, and of the same quality as food others in the household eat;</u>	<a href="#">2960 - MN Rules Chapter</a> . Mealtimes.
<u>(3) not be put on a diet to lose or gain weight unless under the direction of a healthcare professional;</u>	Update.
<u>(4) clothing that fits comfortably, sufficiently protects against outside elements, is of the same or similar quality as the clothes other children in the household wear, and is in accordance with the foster youth’s gender expression, and religious, cultural, and spiritual identities and beliefs;</u>	Update.
<u>(5) dress themselves and pick out the foster youth’s own clothing, as developmentally appropriate;</u>	Update.
<u>(6) have access to a bedroom, whenever safe and appropriate, in the place where the foster youth is living;</u>	Update.
<u>(7) have access to a clean home and safe methods and products for the foster youth to clean themselves and the foster youth’s belongings;</u>	Partial update.  <a href="#">2960.0050 - MN Rules Part. Minnesota Child Foster Care Licensing Guidelines</a> . Clean home and hygiene products  Adding “methods for foster youth to clean belongings.”
<u>(8) have access to safe, appropriate, and sufficient menstrual products with consideration of the foster youth’s preferences;</u>	Partial update.  <a href="#">Minnesota Child Foster Care Licensing Guidelines</a> . Reference “items related to personal hygiene.” Add specific reference to menstrual products.
<u>(9) have access to a comfortable and clean place to sleep that is furnished to the same or similar quality to other rooms;</u>	Partial update.

	<a href="#">2960.3040 - MN Rules Part</a> . Adding similar quality specification.
<u>(10) the foster youth’s own personal belongings that the foster youth is not required to share with others;</u>	Partial update.  <a href="#">2960.3080 - MN Rules Part</a> . Adding non-requirement to share.
<u>(11) acquire more belongings and bring the foster youth’s belongings with them if the foster youth moves to a new placement;</u>	In statute or rule. <a href="#">2960.3080 - MN Rules Part</a> .
<u>(12) have the space to store personal belongings, including hygiene items, clothes, sentimental belongings, and religious or spiritual altars, artifacts, books, or pieces. This includes the right to have private access to those belongings, if reasonable;</u>	Partial update.  <a href="#">2960.3080 - MN Rules Part</a> . Adding examples and access as reasonable.
<u>(13) appropriate travel bags to pack the foster youth’s belongings if the foster youth needs to move that do not include trash or grocery bags;</u>	Update.
<u>(14) have access to a method of communication that is appropriate for the foster youth’s age and developmental level, which may include a cell phone;</u>	Partial update.  <a href="#">Minnesota Child Foster Care Licensing Guidelines</a> . Adding more specific information.
<u>(15) the foster youth’s own money that the foster youth has earned or has been gifted. A foster youth should not be required to pay for the foster youth’s basic needs;</u>	In statute or rule.  <a href="#">Sec. 245A.04 MN Statutes</a> regarding personal funds. <a href="#">Minnesota Child Foster Care Licensing Guidelines</a> specifically address paying for basic needs.
<u>(16) as developmentally appropriate, support to open and access the foster youth’s own bank account, which should not be accessed or borrowed from by others;</u>	Partial update.  <a href="#">Sec. 245A.04 MN Statutes</a> regarding personal funds. Added specification of “bank account.”
<u>(17) have the foster youth’s credit frozen upon entry into foster care at any age and support in unfreezing and refreezing the foster youth’s credit</u>	Update.

<p><u>upon the foster youth’s request if the foster youth is 15 years of age or older;</u></p>	
<p><u>(18) receive and be supported in understanding a yearly credit report. If a foster youth’s credit is being used fraudulently, the responsible social service agency must support the foster youth by amending any discrepancies; and</u></p>	<p>Partial update.  For youth over 14, <a href="#">Sec. 260C.212 MN Statutes</a>. Revise to remove age and add note requiring support to amend discrepancies.</p>
<p><u>(19) have chores and tasks assigned to the foster youth to be typical for the foster youth’s age and development and comparable to other children in the home, if applicable, which includes a consideration of the type, volume, and duration of the chores and tasks.</u></p>	<p>Update.</p>
<p><b>Subd. 5. Privacy.</b> While in foster care, foster youth have a right to privacy. This includes a foster youth’s right to:</p>	
<p><u>(1) communication privacy. A foster youth’s communication can only be monitored due to a safety concern and if a safety concern is determined, the monitoring of any communication must be communicated to the foster youth and documented in the foster youth’s out-of-home placement plan. Communication may include, but is not limited to, technology usage or personal belongings, including writings and artwork;</u></p>	<p>Partial update.  <a href="#">2960.3080 - MN Rules Part</a>. Restrictions on communications must be specified in case plan or approved by case manager. Adding “safety concern”.  <a href="#">Minnesota Child Foster Care Licensing Guidelines</a> provide examples of diaries/journals, social media, private writing/art.</p>
<p><u>(2) change clothes, bathe, and use the bathroom privately, as developmentally appropriate and safe;</u></p>	<p>Update.</p>
<p><u>(3) data privacy. Details of the foster youth’s personal and medical history and immigration status must only be shared as permitted by law and necessary to ensure the foster youth’s safety and well-being;</u></p>	<p>Partial update.  <a href="#">9560.0480 - MN Rules Part</a>. <a href="#">Minnesota Child Foster Care Licensing Guidelines</a>.</p>

	<p><a href="#">DCYF DHS-0139-ENG (Agreement Between Foster Parents and Placement Agency) 7-24</a></p> <p>Adding specification of immigration status.</p>
<u>(4) request for the court to make the foster youth’s medical and therapeutic information confidential from the public, as allowed by law;</u>	In statute or rule. <a href="#">Sec. 144.293 MN Statutes</a> ,
<u>(5) only have cameras in common areas and not to have cameras in areas such as bathrooms, bedrooms, or areas in which the foster youth is expected to bathe and change clothing;</u>	<p>Partial update.</p> <p>In alignment with facility rules <a href="#">2960.0180 - MN Rules Part</a>. Adding common area requirement.</p>
<u>(6) be informed when the foster youth is being recorded while at their residence and have concerns about recording addressed by their family and permanency team; and</u>	<p>Partial update.</p> <p>Requirement for facility placements for notification of recording, <a href="#">2960.0180 - MN Rules Part</a>. Adding how concerns are addressed and broadening to any setting.</p>
<u>(7) be free from unreasonable searches of the foster youth’s personal belongings, space, or body. Searches must be based on an articulated and individualized need that must be as minimally invasive as possible in relation to that need.</u>	Update.
<b>Subd. 6. Health and wellness.</b> While in foster care, foster youth have a right to be healthy and receive high quality healthcare. This includes a foster youth’s right to:	
<u>(1) timely access and transportation to healthcare services, as recommended by the foster youth’s healthcare team and upon the foster youth’s request;</u>	<p>Partial update.</p> <p><a href="#">9560.0600 - MN Rules Part</a>. Requirements for agencies for meeting health needs.</p>

	<p><a href="#">2960.3080 - MN Rules Part.</a> License holder requirement to provide timely access to care and maintain a record of illness reported by child.</p> <p>Adding “transportation” and “upon request.”</p>
<p><u>(2) have the foster youth’s healthcare explained in a manner the foster youth can understand by the provider, caseworker, or other professional, to have the foster youth’s concerns addressed, to meet with the foster youth’s provider in private, and to have a trusted adult present if the foster youth wants one;</u></p>	Update.
<p><u>(3) be free from excessive or unnecessary medication, procedures, or treatments. Determinations for excessiveness must be made by a licensed healthcare professional;</u></p>	Update.
<p><u>(4) give input on the foster youth’s healthcare providers, including selecting healthcare providers or switching a provider for any reason, as available;</u></p>	Update.
<p><u>(5) access or refuse contraceptives and abortion services, unless a licensed healthcare professional determines a contraceptive or procedure is medically necessary, in accordance with the law;</u></p>	<p>Partial update.</p> <p><a href="#">Sec. 144.343 MN Statutes.</a> In alignment with minor’s consent.</p> <p>Added “or refuse.”</p>
<p><u>(6) be free from secondhand smoke exposure;</u></p>	<p>In statute or rule.</p> <p><a href="#">Sec. 260C.215 MN Statutes.</a></p>
<p><u>(7) may consent to their own healthcare in accordance with the sections 144.341 to 144.344 and 253B.04.</u></p>	In statute or rule. 144.341 to 144.344 and 253B.04

<p><u>(8) be free from drug testing as a condition of the foster youth’s placement, unless ordered by a judge or part of an evidence-based substance use treatment program;</u></p>	<p>Update.</p>
<p><u>(9) have support in accessing or refusing family therapy with relatives, unless required by the foster youth’s out-of-home placement plan;</u></p>	<p>Update.</p>
<p><u>(10) have support in accessing an alternative mental health treatment option of the foster youth’s preference;</u></p>	<p>Update.</p>
<p><u>(11) have support in accessing education and services regarding consent, healthy relationships, and sexual and reproductive health and safety, as developmentally appropriate; and</u></p>	<p>Update.</p>
<p><u>(12) be informed of and supported in accessing counseling and mental health support, including resources at school.</u></p>	<p>Partial update.</p> <p><a href="#">2960.3080 - MN Rules Part</a>. License-holder requirement to provide timely access to mental health services.</p> <p>Added “be informed of resources, including resources at school.”</p>
<p><b>Subd. 7. Family and relative connections.</b> While in foster care, foster youth have a right to be connected to relatives. This includes a foster youth’s right to:</p>	
<p><u>(1) be supported in having frequent, consistent, and quality contact with relatives, including both in-person or virtual opportunities, with in-person visits being preferred. Other communications such as letters, emails, texts, or phone calls should be supported;</u></p>	<p>Partial update.</p> <p><a href="#">Sec. 260C.008 MN Statutes</a>. Frequent contact and face-to-face visits with siblings, including calls, texts, social, internet, video calls.</p>

	<p><a href="#">Sec. 260C.221 MN Statutes</a>. Relative engagement, including acting as a support person, visits.</p> <p>Added “consistent and quality,” preference for in-person visits.</p>
<p><u>(2) have contact or visits with relatives only be restricted in circumstances when the foster youth’s family and permanency team has collaboratively weighed factors including, but not limited to, the foster youth’s physical and emotional safety; the input of the foster youth’s healthcare team, when applicable; the foster youth’s own input; and whether alternative forms of visits or contact may be appropriate;</u></p>	<p>Partial update.</p> <p><a href="#">Sec. 260C.008 MN Statutes</a>. Sibling contact and visits shall only be restricted if documented as “not in the best interest of any sibling.”</p> <p>Adding more specificity regarding factors and alternative contact.</p>
<p><u>(3) have the foster youth’s caseworker notify the foster youth’s relatives who responded to the initial search, regardless of whether the relative indicated interest in being a placement option, or relatives identified by the foster youth, when the foster youth moved to a new placement, within five business days of the caseworker being informed of the placement change;</u></p>	<p>Partial update.</p> <p><a href="#">Sec. 260C.221 MN Statutes</a>.</p> <p>Adding time requirement.</p>
<p><u>(4) be told in a personal and confidential manner if a relative of the foster youth dies or is experiencing life-threatening health issues when the agency is aware. When practicable, to be supported in attending any death-related services if someone the foster youth knew dies or to visit a person who is experiencing life-threatening health issues;</u></p>	<p>Update.</p>
<p><u>(5) have the responsible social services agency search and identify relatives, in accordance with section 260C.22;</u></p>	<p>In statute or rule. <a href="#">Sec. 260C.221 MN Statutes</a>.</p>
<p><u>(6) have the foster youth’s caseworker update the courts regarding the caseworker’s efforts to support sibling and relative relationships at each court hearing;</u></p>	<p>Partial update.</p>

	<p><a href="#">Sec. 260C.178 MN Statutes</a>. For children placed apart, court shall inquire at each subsequent hearing . . .</p> <p><a href="#">Sec. 260C.221 MN Statutes</a>. Supporting sibling relationships.</p> <p><a href="#">Sec. 260.012 MN Statutes</a>. Court shall ensure reasonable efforts . . . placement and visitation between siblings.</p> <p>Add: consider siblings not in foster care and relative requirement.</p>
<p><u>(7) have the foster youth’s family and permanency team make every effort to support relationships with all of the foster youth’s siblings and relatives, including adult siblings, whether the siblings are in foster care or not, unless the agency has documented a verifiable safety concern in the foster youth’s out-of-home placement plan. This support must include:</u></p>	<p>Partial update.</p> <p><a href="#">Sec. 260C.008 MN Statutes</a>. <a href="#">Sec. 260C.178 MN Statutes</a>. Sibling contact and exceptions.</p> <p><a href="#">Sec. 260C.193 MN Statutes</a>. Relative engagement.</p> <p><a href="#">Sec. 260C.212 MN Statutes</a>. OHPP reporting requirements.</p> <p>2960.3080. Must work with the agency to develop visitation plans, may not limit or restrict beyond.</p> <p>Combining language and noting other siblings. Specifying exception language.</p>
<p><u>(i) having the foster youth’s input prioritized regarding any sibling and relative relationships. This may include the frequency and methods of communication, including phone calls, letters, or in-person or virtual visits;</u></p>	<p>Update.</p>

	In alignment with <a href="#">Sec. 260C.212 MN Statutes</a> placement preference factors and <a href="#">Sec. 260C.008 MN Statutes</a> .
<u>(ii) frequent contact and support in contacting the foster youth’s siblings. This includes weekly regular face-to-face visits, whenever possible, and weekly virtual contact. Virtual contact includes, but is not limited to, telephone calls, text messaging, social media, other internet use, and video calls;</u>	Partial update.  <a href="#">Sec. 260C.008 MN Statutes</a> . Specifying “regular” to “weekly whenever possible.”
<u>(iii) not withholding or restricting sibling and relative relationships as a consequence for behavior;</u>	In statute or rule. <a href="#">Sec. 260C.008 MN Statutes</a>
<u>(iv) regular visits being ensured by members of the foster youth’s family and permanency team and the coordination of dates, times, transportation, and other accommodations as necessary;</u>	In statute or rule. <a href="#">Sec. 260C.008 MN Statutes</a>
<u>(v) the timing and regularity of visits to be outlined in each sibling's service plan; and</u>	In statute or rule. <a href="#">Sec. 260C.008 MN Statutes</a>
<u>(vi) alternative ways to preserve relationships being supported, in the event of a documented verifiable safety concern;</u>	Partial update.  <a href="#">Sec. 260C.212 MN Statutes</a> . <a href="#">Sec. 260C.008 MN Statutes</a> , <a href="#">Policy on Sibling Placement</a> . Supporting safe contact, <a href="#">Out-Of-Home Placement Plan Tutorial Guide</a> .  In practice guidance and implied in 260C.008.
<u>(8) have efforts made by the foster youth’s caseworker to receive, at least quarterly, a telephone number, address, or email address for all the foster youth’s siblings, both those in foster care and not in foster care, and receive updated photographs of siblings regularly;</u>	Partial update.  <a href="#">Sec. 260C.008 MN Statutes</a> .  Add consideration of siblings not in foster care. Revise from “annually receive” to “have efforts made to

	receive.” Updating time interval and including specificity regarding caseworker responsibility.
<u>(9) be actively involved in the lives of the foster youth’s siblings and, if possible, relatives and to be provided with support in doing so. This may include, but is not limited to, attending celebrations, birthdays, holidays, graduations, school and extracurricular activities, and other milestones;</u>	Partial update.  <a href="#">Sec. 260C.008 MN Statutes</a> . Adding relatives, if possible.
<u>(10) be promptly informed about changes in a sibling’s placement or circumstance, including, but not limited to, new placements, discharge from placements, significant life events, and discharge from foster care, <i>unless the responsible social service agency documents specific reasons that information is contrary to the safety and well-being of any sibling or a sibling requests for the information not to be shared;</i></u>	Partial update.  <a href="#">Sec. 260C.008 MN Statutes</a> . Added text in italics.
<u>(11) be included in permanency planning decisions for any siblings;</u>	In statute or rule. <a href="#">Sec. 260C.008 MN Statutes</a>
<u>(12) have the adult siblings and relatives of the foster youth be notified of the opportunity to become a foster care provider, adoptive parent, or relative custodian;</u>	In statute or rule. <a href="#">Sec. 260C.008 MN Statutes</a> .
<u>(13) have the foster youth’s siblings, if known, to be notified of their rights as a sibling, through materials in a format specified by the Office of the Foster Youth Ombudsperson. This includes adult siblings and siblings not in foster care; and</u>	Partial update.  <a href="#">Sec. 260C.008 MN Statutes</a> .  Changing from DCYF to OOFY created materials.
<u>(14) have support in planning to maintain sibling and relative relationships after the foster youth exit foster care for any reason. This may include communication and contact agreements.</u>	Partial update.  <a href="#">Sec. 260C.008 MN Statutes</a> .  Including specificity of planning vs. be informed and agreements. Specify “for any reason.”

**Subd. 8. Community and cultural connections.** While in foster care, foster youth have a right to be connected to the foster youth’s community and culture. This includes a foster youth’s right to:

<p><u>(1) have support in finding and maintaining regular contact with communities that reflect the foster youth’s culture, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression, with specific attention paid to maintaining the community connections the foster youth had prior to entering foster care. The foster youth’s cultural and community needs must be documented in the foster youth’s out-of-home placement plan;</u></p>	<p>Partial update.</p> <p><a href="#">Sec. 260C.212 MN Statutes</a>. “Permitted to allow to participate. . .social or cultural activities.”</p> <p><a href="#">2960.3060 - MN Rules Part</a>. Applicant must actively support racial or ethnic background, culture, and respect sexual orientation.</p> <p>Strengthen language and provide examples. Documentation.</p>
<p><u>(2) be cared for by people that have received training on understanding and validating the foster youth’s cultural, racial, and ethnic heritage in a trauma-informed manner;</u></p>	<p>Partial update. *consolidated</p> <p><a href="#">Sec. 260C.215 MN Statutes</a>. Written plan requirements. <a href="#">2960.3070 - MN Rules Part</a>. Requirement to actively support racial, ethnic, culture <a href="#">Sec. 260C.212 MN Statutes</a>. Best interest factors “religious and cultural needs” and “history and experience.” <a href="#">Sec. 245A.175 MN Statutes</a>. Training reqs.</p>
<p><u>(3) ethnically and culturally appropriate hygiene and hair care products, tools, and services, which may include access to protective hairstyling services, oils, bonnets, durags, lotions, shampoo, conditioner, and body wash;</u></p>	<p>Update.</p> <p><a href="#">Minnesota Child Foster Care Licensing Guidelines</a> “Basic needs” defined including “personal incidentals” with examples given of “cosmetics” and “items related to personal hygiene.”</p>

<p><u>(4) have support in accessing education in personal care, hygiene, and grooming that reflects the foster youth’s race, ethnicity, culture, gender identity and gender expression;</u></p>	<p>Update.</p> <p><a href="#"><u>Minnesota Child Foster Care Licensing Guidelines</u></a>  “Basic needs” defined including “personal incidentals” with examples given of “cosmetics” and “items related to personal hygiene.”</p>
<p><u>(5) have support to make and cultivate friendships, including connections made before the foster youth’s time in foster care or while in a previous placement. Connections should be supported through in-person or virtual opportunities, with preference for in-person visits. Letters, emails, texts, or phone calls should also be supported. The foster youth’s communications with friends must only be limited due to safety or wellbeing concerns of the foster youth;</u></p>	<p>Update.</p>
<p><u>(6) communicate in and be communicated with in the foster youth’s preferred languages, which may include Braille or sign language. If the foster youth’s foster parent or caregiver does not know the foster youth’s language, the foster youth’s caseworker will provide a plan to meet the foster youth’s needs to communicate; and</u></p>	<p>.</p> <p>Partial update.</p> <p>260C.212. Support for cultural identify and needs.</p> <p>Update: Specified language.</p>
<p><u>(7) have support in accessing online or in-person peer support groups that are age-appropriate, and that may include support or affinity groups that align with the foster youth’s protected class status under section 363A.02.</u></p>	<p>Update.</p>
<p><b>Subd. 9. Religious and spiritual practices.</b> While in foster care, foster youth have rights regarding religious and spiritual practices. <u>This includes a foster youth’s right to:</u></p>	
<p><u>(1) participate in cultural, religious, and spiritual events and practices that are meaningful to the foster youth. This may include spaces and materials to practice the foster youth’s religion or spirituality, including, but not</u></p>	<p>Partial update.</p>

<p><u>limited to, the ability to smudge, light incense, or light candles safely or under appropriate supervision;</u></p>	<p><a href="#">Sec. 260C.212 MN Statutes</a>. Consideration in reasonable and prudent parenting.</p> <p><a href="#">2960.3060 - MN Rules Part</a>. Applicant must actively support religion.</p> <p><a href="#">2960.3080 - MN Rules Part</a>. Space to accumulate possessions, as the home can accommodate.</p> <p>Adding examples.</p>
<p><u>(2) choose not to participate in cultural, religious, and spiritual events and practices; and</u></p>	<p>Partial update.</p> <p><a href="#">2960.0080 - MN Rules Part</a>. Requirement in residential facilities for services to be voluntary.</p> <p>Updating to be consistent for all settings.</p>
<p><u>(3) be in a placement that is informed and respectful of the foster youth’s religious and spiritual practices and needs.</u></p>	<p>In statute or rule.</p> <p><a href="#">2960.3060 - MN Rules Part</a>. Applicant must actively support religion.</p>
<p><b><u>Subd. 10. Sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression.</u></b> While in foster care, foster youth have rights regarding sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression. This includes a foster youth’s right to:</p>	
<p><u>(1) have the foster youth’s sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression affirmed and supported. This includes the right for the foster youth to express themselves in the way the foster youth decides, including, but not limited to, the foster youth’s hair styles, makeup</u></p>	<p>Update.</p> <p><a href="#">2960.3060 - MN Rules Part</a>. “respect the child’s sexual orientation.”</p> <p><a href="#">DHS-6500-ENG</a>. Practice guide.</p>

<u>choices, chosen pronouns, chosen name, and the way the foster youth dresses, including gender-affirming undergarments;</u>	
<u>(2) request and be supported in obtaining gender-affirming care including counseling, medication, and other supportive services;</u>	Update.  <a href="#">DHS-6500-ENG</a> . Practice guide.
<u>(3) privacy regarding the foster youth’s sexual orientation and gender identity. Whenever possible, to not have the foster youth’s gender identity or sexual orientation disclosed without consent; and</u>	Update.  <a href="#">DHS-6500-ENG</a> . Practice guide.
<u>(4) not experience conversion or reparative therapies.</u>	In statute or rule. <a href="#">Sec. 214.078 MN Statutes</a> .
<b>Subd. 11. Disability and accommodation.</b> While in foster care, foster youth have rights regarding disability status and accommodation. This includes a foster youth’s right to:	
<u>(1) receive proper and reasonable accommodation and services to help the foster youth thrive in the foster youth’s placement and at school, which may include support in obtaining full access to education;</u>	In statute or rule.  Federal laws (ADA Title II, Section 504, IDEA) <a href="#">3525 - MN Rules Chapter</a> .  <a href="#">Sec. 135A.163 MN Statutes</a> . Higher ed.  <a href="#">2960.3060 - MN Rules Part</a> . “Applicant must meet the foster child’s needs . . . including disabilities.”
<u>(2) be in a placement that is educated about the foster youth’s disability and the accommodations the foster youth may need; and</u>	In statute or rule.  <a href="#">2960.3060 - MN Rules Part</a> . “Applicant must meet the foster child’s needs . . . including disabilities.”
<u>(3) the same access to age and developmentally appropriate activities and experiences as the foster youth’s peers and given accommodations to participate in such experiences. To not be excluded from participation in</u>	Partial update. *consolidated  <a href="#">Sec. 260C.212 MN Statutes</a> . Activities.

<p><u>or be denied benefits of the services, programs, or activities due to the foster youth’s disability status.</u></p>	<p><a href="#">Sec. 363A.02 MN Statutes</a>. Freedom from discrimination due to disability.</p>
<p><b>Subd. 12. Education.</b> While in foster care, foster youth have rights regarding school and education. This includes a foster youth’s right to:</p>	
<p><u>(1) have support to attend school in a consistent setting, which may include staying in the same school throughout the foster youth’s time in foster care and attending the same school as the foster youth’s siblings, if possible. This includes timely transportation that is free of cost to the foster youth;</u></p>	<p>In statute or rule.</p> <p><a href="#">Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)</a>. See also: <a href="#">Foster Transportation FAQ October 2023</a>.</p> <p><a href="#">Sec. 260C.212 MN Statutes</a>. Educational stability and best interests.</p>
<p><u>(2) have support in transferring credits, including partial credits, and ensure that credits can be maximized if the foster youth changes schools;</u></p>	<p>Update.</p> <p><a href="#">Aligns with federal non-regulatory guidance from ED and HHS.</a></p>
<p><u>(3) have support to ensure that the foster youth does not receive a reduction of a grade or disciplinary action solely due to foster care related absences or lateness. To be supported in accessing and identifying recovery options in the foster youth’s classes during school hours, if possible, when these circumstances occur;</u></p>	<p>Update.</p> <p><a href="#">Sec. 363A.02 MN Statutes</a>. Freedom from discrimination in education because of status with regard to public assistance.</p> <p><a href="#">Sec. 120A.22 MN Statutes</a>. Excused absence policy.</p>
<p><u>(4) not have the foster youth’s scheduled activities, including school, disrupted by foster care related meetings and events, if possible, in accordance with the foster youth’s preferences or if there is a safety need or necessity;</u></p>	<p>Partial update.</p> <p><a href="#">Sec. 260C.212 MN Statutes</a>. Majority of visits must occur in residence.</p>

	Adding avoidance of activity or school disruption, if possible.
<u>(5) only have the foster youth's foster care status or personal information disclosed to necessary staff members at the foster youth's school;</u>	Partial update.  <a href="#">DCYF DHS-0139-ENG (Agreement Between Foster Parents and Placement Agency) 7-24</a> . "May communicate to school staff necessary information to education children"
<u>(6) have support in accessing quality education. This may include access to the materials, time, or accommodations needed to complete the foster youth's homework, testing, or other obligations;</u>	Partial update.  <a href="#">Every Student Succeeds Act</a> . Receive a well-rounded education. <a href="#">Sec. 120A.22 MN Statutes</a> . School requirement.  Adding "quality" and examples.
<u>(7) have support from the foster youth's family and permanency team to graduate high school in a timely manner and in a similar timeframe to the foster youth's peers;</u>	Update.  In alignment with goals of <a href="#">Every Student Succeeds Act</a> .
<u>(8) have support in enrolling in any accelerated and college-level courses and programs the foster youth is qualified to enroll in, including timely support to prepare for post-secondary education;</u>	Update.
<u>(9) have support in accessing extra help and tutoring if needed;</u>	In statute or rule. Section 504.  In alignment with <a href="#">Every Student Succeeds Act</a> . Authorized activities.
<u>(10) make choices about the foster youth's classes in accordance with the foster youth's school's requirements and policies; and</u>	Update.

<u>(11) own or access to all necessary school supplies.</u>	Update.
<b>Subd. 13. Activities.</b> While in foster care, foster youth have a right to participate in various activities. This includes a foster youth’s <b>right to:</b>	
<u>(1) be included in activities with the foster youth’s placement, relatives, and friends. This includes, but is not limited to, birthdays, special celebrations, holidays, and vacations;</u>	<p>Partial update.</p> <p><a href="#">2960.3000 - MN Rules</a>. “As much as possible . . . include the child in the daily life of the family, including . . . participating in recreational activities.’</p> <p>Adding “friends” and example activities.</p>
<u>(2) participate in age and developmentally appropriate activities that align with the foster youth’s preferences and to not be denied access to an activity based on the fact that the foster youth is in foster care. This includes, but is not limited to, social activities, school events, sports, arts programming, clubs, community activities, cultural customs, and other extracurriculars;</u>	<p>Partial update.</p> <p><a href="#">Sec. 260C.212 MN Statutes</a>. Placement shall allow foster youth to participate in activities.</p> <p><a href="#">2960.3080 - MN Rules Part</a>. Licensing requirement to encourage activities.</p> <p><a href="#">Sec. 363A.02 MN Statutes</a>. Freedom from discrimination because of status with regard to public assistance.</p> <p>Adding preference language and examples.</p>
<u>(3) have support in ensuring continuation of activities if the foster youth’s foster care status or related circumstances affects the foster youth’s participation or attendance; and</u>	Update.
<u>(4) timely transportation to activities that is free of cost to the foster youth.</u>	Update.

<p><b>Subd. 14. Case management and planning.</b> While in foster care, foster youth have rights regarding case management and planning. This includes a foster youth's right to:</p>	
<p><u>(1) a guardian ad litem and caseworker;</u></p>	<p>Partial update.</p> <p><a href="#">Sec. 260C.163 MN Statutes</a>. GaL mandated in some cases, may be appointed by the court in other cases.</p> <p><a href="#">Sec. 518.165 MN Statutes</a></p> <p>Added: Making consistent the right to have GaL.</p>
<p><u>(2) be involved with case planning, including having a current out of home placement plan, receiving a copy of the placement plan, having the contents of the placement plan explained to the foster youth in a developmentally appropriate and accessible manner, helping create and edit the plan, and having it updated every 6 months and upon request;</u></p>	<p>In statute or rule.</p> <p><a href="#">Sec. 260C.212 MN Statutes</a>.  <a href="#">Sec. 260C.203 MN Statutes</a>.</p>
<p><u>(3) receive contact information for the foster youth's caseworker and guardian ad litem, to be able to contact them when desired and privately, and to receive a response that is reasonably prompt;</u></p>	<p>Partial update.</p> <p><a href="#">Sec. 260C.212 MN Statutes</a>. Private meetings with caseworker.</p> <p><a href="#">Caseworker and child visits best practice guide</a>.</p> <p>Added: contact information and response.</p>
<p><u>(4) timely, quality, and private visits with the foster youth's caseworker and guardian ad litem at least in-person every 30 days, including if the foster youth is out of state;</u></p>	<p>Partial update.</p> <p><a href="#">Sec. 260C.212 MN Statutes</a>. Private monthly meetings with caseworker.</p>

	<p><a href="#">Caseworker and child visits best practice guide</a>, Descriptions of quality.</p> <p><a href="#">Sec. 518.165 MN Statutes</a>. GaL meetings.</p> <p>Added: GaL consideration.</p>
<p><u>(5) be represented by and communicate with an attorney if the foster youth is ten years of age or older, to have the right to an attorney be explained to the foster youth, to receive contact information for the foster youth’s attorney and contact them when desired and confidentially, and to request and receive a new attorney, as available;</u></p>	<p>Partial update.</p> <p><a href="#">Sec. 260C.163 MN Statutes</a>. Right to an attorney for 260C.</p> <p>Adding requirement to receive contact information and request new attorney, as available.</p>
<p><u>(6) know why the foster youth is in foster care and what will or might happen to the foster youth while in foster care, explained to the foster youth by the agency in a developmentally appropriate and accessible manner;</u></p>	<p>In statute or rule. <a href="#">Sec. 260C.212 MN Statutes</a></p>
<p><u>(7) translation support for all court hearings, foster care-related meetings, and materials if needed or requested;</u></p>	<p>Partial update.</p> <p>Requirement for translation accommodations in court <a href="#">Sec. 363A.11 MN Statutes</a>.</p> <p>Revised to include foster care meetings and materials.</p>
<p><u>(8) participate in and attend all court hearings and receive transportation to court hearings. This includes being told about the foster youth’s right to attend court with as much advance notice as possible for each hearing, both by court administration in writing and verbally by the foster youth’s caseworker;</u></p>	<p>Partial update.</p> <p><a href="#">Sec. 260C.163 MN Statutes</a>. Right to attend court hearings.</p>

	Adding clarification regarding transportation support and details of notice.
<u>(9) communicate with the court through the foster youth’s family and permanency team and attorney, if applicable, or directly in a court setting that is open to other parties</u>	In statute or rule.  <a href="#">Sec. 260C.163 MN Statutes.</a>
<u>(10) if the foster youth has an attorney, to have court processes and participation explained to the foster youth in an age and developmentally appropriate way;</u>	Update.
<u>(11) have the foster youth’s input prioritized in decision-making by the foster youth’s family and permanency team;</u>	Partial update.  <a href="#">Sec. 260C.212 MN Statutes.</a> Child’s input in out-of-home placement plan, ILP, court, and other decision-making places. Adding prioritized language.
<u>(12) select two people to be on the foster youth’s family and permanency team. Upon the foster youth’s request, these two people may attend meetings instead of the foster youth;</u>	In statute or rule. <a href="#">Sec. 260C.212 MN Statutes</a>
<u>(13) select one member of the foster youth’s family and permanency team to be the foster youth’s advisor. This person can also advocate for the foster youth about how reasonable and prudent parenting standards will apply;</u>	In statute or rule. <a href="#">Sec. 260C.212 MN Statutes</a>
<u>(14) give input on where the foster youth will live, including:</u>	In statute or rule.  <a href="#">Sec. 260C.212 MN Statutes.</a> “Reasonable preferences of the child.”
<u>(i) being placed in the least restrictive placement possible. If the considerations regarding the least restrictive placement change, other less restrictive placement options must be evaluated;</u>	In statute or rule.  <a href="#">Sec. 260C.212 MN Statutes,</a> <a href="#">9560.0223 - MN Rules Part.</a>

<p><u>(ii) being in a placement that affirms and supports the foster youth’s identities. To request to have the placement changed if it is not affirming of the foster youth’s identities;</u></p>	<p>Partial update.</p> <p><a href="#">2960.3060 - MN Rules Part.</a> “Actively support the foster child's racial or ethnic background, culture, and religion, and respect the child's sexual orientation”</p>
<p><u>(iii) having placement with the foster youth’s relatives prioritized over non-relatives in accordance with the foster youth’s preferences, as developmentally appropriate;</u></p>	<p>In statute or rule.</p> <p><a href="#">Sec. 260C.212 MN Statutes</a></p>
<p><u>(iv) being in the same placement as any siblings, whenever possible;</u></p>	<p>In statute or rule.</p> <p><a href="#">Sec. 260C.008 MN Statutes</a></p>
<p><u>(v) not being placed in a juvenile detention facility for more than 24 hours due to foster care status;</u></p>	<p>In statute or rule.</p> <p><a href="#">Sec. 260C.181 MN Statutes</a></p>
<p><u>(15) be placed in close geographical distance to any siblings to facilitate frequent and meaningful contact, if placement together is not possible;</u></p>	<p>In statute or rule.</p> <p><a href="#">Sec. 260C.008 MN Statutes</a></p>
<p><u>(16) receive as much advance notice as possible before a transition to a new placement and to be informed about what the foster youth can expect, including, but not limited to, placement location and type, where the foster youth will sleep, if the foster youth will have roommates, and any changes in the foster youth’s life that will result in this placement change;</u></p>	<p>Partial update.</p> <p>Requirement for the OHPP to be updated within 30 days of the child’s placement change, <a href="#">Sec. 260C.212 MN Statutes.</a></p> <p>Adding requirement for expectations and details of new placement.</p>
<p><u>(17) within 60 days of entry into foster care, receive screening from caseworker to determine if youth has both a US birth certificate and Social Security number. The court shall be notified by the caseworker whether the screening has been provided without details of the youth’s</u></p>	<p>Partial update.</p> <p><a href="#">Special Immigrant Juvenile Status.</a> Identification and referral.</p>

<p><u>immigration status. If the foster youth does not have both documents, the foster youth shall receive referral to an immigration legal services provider that provides services in the jurisdiction where the child resides.</u></p>	<p>Added details and timeline.</p>
<p><u>(18) have support from the foster youth’s caseworker to navigate how the foster youth can pursue tribal enrollment, if applicable; and</u></p>	<p>Partial update.</p> <p><a href="#">Sec. 260.781 MN Statutes</a>. Requiring the department to provide information to or for adopted children, adoptive parent/s, Indian custodian/s or guardian/s, which may be necessary to establish tribal membership</p> <p>ICWA. Requiring that active efforts are made to identify children’s membership or eligibility for membership in any federally recognized Indian tribe</p>
<p><u>(19) have support from the foster youth’s family and permanency team to advocate for the foster youth’s rights.</u></p>	<p>Update.</p>
<p><b>Subd. 15. Transition resources and support.</b> While in foster care, foster youth have rights to receive comprehensive, ongoing support to successfully prepare for adulthood. This includes a foster youth’s right to:</p>	
<p><u>(1) request, receive, and give input on an independent living plan once the foster youth is 14 years of age and to review the foster youth’s independent living plan regularly and upon request;</u></p>	<p>In statute or rule.</p> <p><a href="#">Sec. 260C.212 MN Statutes</a>. <a href="#">Sec. 260C.451 MN Statutes</a>.</p>
<p><u>(2) receive appropriate resources to meet the objectives of the foster youth’s independent living plan, including, but not limited to, educational and vocational resources, mental and physical health management, life skills, financial literacy, insurance, and social and recreational skills;</u></p>	<p>Partial update.</p> <p><a href="#">Sec. 260C.451 MN Statutes</a>. “employment, vocational, educational, social, or maturational needs.”</p>

	Revised list.
<p><u>(3) remain or enroll in extended foster care until the foster youth is 21 years of age if the foster youth is in foster care immediately prior to the foster youth’s eighteenth birthday and meets eligibility requirements. This may include being exempted due to a medical condition. If the foster youth is eligible, the foster youth must be notified in writing of the enrollment at least six months prior to the foster youth’s eighteenth birthday. The foster youth will be automatically enrolled into extended foster care on the foster youth’s eighteenth birthday and receive all associated support and benefits, unless the foster youth otherwise notifies the foster youth’s caseworker with a signed form created by the commissioner of children, youth, and families. This signed form must be submitted with the court in conjunction with the required court report under Laws of Minnesota 2025, chapter 3, article 10, sections 21-22;</u></p>	<p>Partial update.</p> <p><a href="#">Sec. 260C.451 MN Statutes</a>. Extended foster care. Updating to include opt-out and tracking language.</p>
<p><u>(4) receive clear communication regarding case management services ending for a foster youth who is at least 18 years of age and under 23 years of age. The responsible social services agency shall give the foster youth: (1) written notice that case management services for the youth shall terminate; and (2) written notice that the youth has the right to appeal the termination of case management services under section 142A.20, subdivision 2, by responding in writing within ten days of the date that the agency mailed the notice. The termination notice must include information about services for which the youth is eligible, how to access the services, and must be sent 60 days before case management services end;</u></p>	<p>In statute or rule.</p> <p><a href="#">Sec. 260C.452 MN Statutes</a>.</p>
<p><u>(5) request, receive, and give input on a transition plan, at least six months before the expected date of discharge from foster care for any reason, if the foster youth is in foster care at 17 years and 6 months of age. This plan must be in accordance with section 260C.452 subdivision 4. The</u></p>	<p>In statute or rule.</p> <p><a href="#">Sec. 260C.452 MN Statutes</a>.</p>

<p><u>foster youth has the right to receive support from the foster youth’s caseworker in accessing these services and resources;</u></p>	
<p><u>(6) request and receive the foster youth’s social and medical history, and genetic health conditions of the foster youth’s biological family, if available, upon discharge from foster care. If the foster youth is 18 years of age or older when exiting foster care, to receive these records from the foster youth’s caseworker;</u></p>	<p>In statute or rule.  <a href="#">Sec. 260C.212 MN Statutes.</a></p>
<p><u>(7) receive the foster youth’s social security card; an official or certified copy of the foster youth’s birth certificate; a state identification card or driver’s license; tribal enrollment identification card; immigration documents; health insurance information; the foster youth’s healthcare records; a contact list of the foster youth’s healthcare providers; social and educational history and records, and contact information for the foster youth’s siblings, if they are in foster care, at no cost to the foster youth if the foster youth is 18 years of age or older when exiting foster care;</u></p>	<p>Partial update.  <a href="#">Sec. 260C.452 MN Statutes.</a>  Changed “permanent resident card” to “immigration documents.”</p>
<p><u>(8) timely support from the foster youth’s caseworker in obtaining and providing the foster youth’s vital documents, as age appropriate, at no cost to the foster youth;</u></p>	<p>Partial update.  <a href="#">Sec. 260C.452 MN Statutes.</a> Cover 18+. Added “at no cost.”  Add “as age appropriate.”</p>
<p><u>(9) maintain employment or professional development opportunities, in accordance with the law and to receive support in accessing transportation to and from these opportunities that is free or low cost to the foster youth;</u></p>	<p>Partial update.  <a href="#">Sec. 260C.212 MN Statutes.</a> ILP. 14+ employment planning, transportation  Specified: allowed to work in accordance with the law.</p>

<p><u>(10) have support to enroll in and attend a driver’s education class and take a permit and driver’s license test, as many attempts as it may take, that is free of cost to the foster youth;</u></p>	<p>Partial update.</p> <p><a href="#">Sec. 260C.212 MN Statutes</a>. Planning for, “Transportation including, where appropriate, assisting the child in obtaining a driver's license.”</p> <p>Adding details and “free of cost.”</p>
<p><u>(11) own a motor vehicle, purchased by or gifted to the foster youth, which the foster youth may access in accordance with the law and only restricted due to safety or well-being concerns;</u></p>	<p>Partial update.</p> <p><a href="#">Sec. 168.101 MN Statutes</a>. Must be 17+ <a href="#">2960.3080 - MN Rules Part</a>. Allowed to accumulate possessions.</p> <p>Updating for clarity on restriction.</p>
<p><u>(12) have support from the agency to obtain car insurance, which may include assistance in gathering documents, enrolling, and support from the agency to access available financial supports;</u></p>	<p>Update.</p> <p>In alignment with Prudent Parent Guidance <a href="#">DHS-7684-ENG_6-18_GJF</a>, and ILP transportation planning <a href="#">Sec. 260C.212 MN Statutes</a>.</p>
<p><u>(13) as reasonably known by the foster youth’s caseworker, be notified by the agency of all benefits that the foster youth is eligible to receive during the foster youth’s time in foster care at the point when the foster youth is eligible and every six months after and be supported in accessing them. This includes, but is not limited to, fostering independence grants, education training voucher, free application for federal student aid, fostering youth independence voucher, medical assistance, and extended foster care;</u></p>	<p>Partial update.</p> <p><a href="#">Sec. 260C.452 MN Statutes</a>.</p> <p>Expanding to include ages under 18 and giving 6-month requirement. Added additional example benefits.</p>
<p><u>(14) be notified in person by the legally responsible agency and the guardian ad litem, and in a manner that best helps the foster youth</u></p>	<p>In statute or rule.</p>

<p><u>understand the information, when a financially responsible agency receives benefits on behalf of the foster youth if the foster youth is 13 years of age or older;</u></p>	<p><a href="#">Sec. 142A.609 MN Statutes.</a></p>
<p><u>(15) request and receive, in accordance with the law, the foster youth’s foster care records upon discharge from foster care or transition to extended foster care, and if the foster youth is 13 years of age or older, to receive official documentation that shows the foster youth was in foster care;</u></p>	<p>Partial update.</p> <p><a href="#">Sec. 260C.452 MN Statutes.</a> Shifting from 14 years old to 13 due to Fostering Independence Grants eligibility requirements. Already filed after age 13, <a href="#">DHS-8241-ENG (Minnesota proof of foster care placement)</a>. Adding ability to request and receive foster care records.</p>
<p><u>(16) request and be notified if the foster youth has any personal effects that are in the foster youth’s file, which may include pictures, letters, notes, or other personal effects;</u></p>	<p>Update.</p> <p>In alignment with DCYF work regarding adoptee belongings.</p>
<p><u>(17) have support from the foster youth’s caseworker to ensure the foster youth has and can maintain safe and stable housing while the foster youth is enrolled in extended foster care; and</u></p>	<p>In statute or rule.</p> <p><a href="#">Sec. 260C.451 MN Statutes.</a></p>
<p><u>(18) be enrolled in medical assistance throughout the foster youth’s time in foster care, including extended foster care. If the foster youth is in the foster care system when the foster youth turns 18 years of age, the foster youth has a right to maintain eligibility for medical assistance until the foster youth turns 26 years of age;</u></p>	<p>In statute or rule.</p> <p><a href="#">Sec. 256B.055 MN Statutes, 2.5.6.3 MA for Children in Foster Care (MA-FC).</a></p>
<p><b>Subd. 16. Pregnant and parenting.</b> While in foster care, foster youth who are pregnant or parenting have rights. This includes a <u>foster youth’s right to:</u></p>	
<p><u>(1) legal and physical custody of the foster youth’s child, unless otherwise determined by a court order and in accordance with the Parentage Act in sections 257.51 to 257.75;</u></p>	<p>In statute or rule. <a href="#">Minn. Statutes 2025 257.51 to 257.71</a></p>

<u>(2) receive clear and accurate information regarding the foster youth’s parental rights from the foster youth’s caseworker;</u>	Update.
<u>(3) be informed of the foster youth’s legal rights relating to paternity and child support, and to receive support in engaging with related court processes upon request by the foster youth;</u>	Update.
<u>(4) have support from the foster youth’s family and permanency team in maintaining the foster youth’s parental rights through:</u>	
<u>(i) accessing any resources needed to adequately and safely care for the foster youth’s child, including affordable childcare;</u>	Partial update.  In alignment with <a href="#">TITLE VII—FAMILY FIRST PREVENTION SERVICES ACT</a> .
<u>(ii) accessing healthcare appointments and services for the foster youth and the foster youth’s children, including transportation that is at no cost to the foster youth;</u>	Partial update.  In alignment with <a href="#">TITLE VII—FAMILY FIRST PREVENTION SERVICES ACT</a> .
<u>(iii) federal Title IX protections in United States Code, title 20, chapter 38;</u>	In statute or rule. Federal Title IX protections in United States Code, title 20, chapter 38;
<u>(5) access services to support the foster youth’s birth plan and postpartum needs and resources needed to ensure these services are free or low-cost to the foster youth;</u>	Update.
<u>(6) access resources to establish a healthcare directive and will for the foster youth and the foster youth’s children;</u>	Partial update.  <a href="#">Sec. 260C.452 MN Statutes</a> . 14+ health care directive for the foster youth.  Added foster youth’s children.
<u>(7) access proper and reasonable accommodations in school and work if the foster youth becomes pregnant or parenting while in foster care;</u>	Partial update.  <a href="#">Sec. 181.939 MN Statutes</a> . Title IX protections for pregnancy.

<p><u>(8) determine the foster youth’s own birth and parenting plans, in collaboration with the foster youth’s birth services provider, that is aligned with the foster youth’s religious, spiritual, cultural, racial, and ethnic identities;</u></p>	<p>Partial update.</p> <p><a href="#">Sec. 144.342 MN Statutes</a> PRO Act, <a href="#">Sec. 145.409 MN Statutes</a>. Adding details regarding considerations.</p>
<p><u>(9) certain rights if the foster youth is not the primary caregiver of the foster youth’s child, which include:</u></p>	
<p><u>(i) support to co-parent, if possible and safe;</u></p>	<p>Partial update.</p> <p>In alignment with <a href="#">EPY In Care Practice Guide 1, Practice Guide for Maintaining Family Connections for Children in Foster Care.</a></p>
<p><u>(ii) support in attending regular visitations and overnights with the foster youth’s children in the foster youth’s choice of location, in accordance with custody orders; and</u></p>	<p>Partial update.</p> <p>In alignment with <a href="#">EPY In Care Practice Guide 1, Practice Guide for Maintaining Family Connections for Children in Foster Care.</a></p>
<p><u>(iii) regular contact with the foster youth’s child, which may include in-person and virtual visits, phone calls, and letters;</u></p>	<p>Partial update.</p> <p>In alignment with <a href="#">EPY In Care Practice Guide 1, Practice Guide for Maintaining Family Connections for Children in Foster Care.</a></p>
<p><u>(10) not be coerced into terminating the foster youth’s parental rights. The foster youth should not have to choose between staying in the foster youth’s placement, receiving services, or accessing basic needs, and maintaining the foster youth’s parental rights;</u></p>	<p>Update.</p>

<p><u>(11) be placed with the foster youth’s children in a setting as family-like as possible;</u></p>	<p>Partial update.  <a href="#">Sec. 260C.212 MN Statutes</a>. Adding requirement with child(ren).</p>
<p><u>(12) provide recommendations of where the foster youth would like the foster youth’s children to live if the foster youth’s children are removed from the foster youth’s care or the foster youth willingly chooses to release them from the foster youth’s care;</u></p>	<p>In statute or rule.  <a href="#">Sec. 260C.212 MN Statutes</a>.</p>
<p><u>(13) not have the foster youth or the foster youth’s children drug tested solely due to the foster youth’s foster care status, in accordance with the law; and</u></p>	<p>Update.</p>
<p><u>(14) only be subjected to a paternity test as authorized by law.</u></p>	<p>In statute or rule.  <a href="#">Sec. 257.62 MN Statutes</a>.</p>
<p><b><u>Subd. 17. Feedback, complaints, and grievances.</u></b> While in foster care, foster youth have the right to receive information and give feedback. This includes a foster youth’s right to:</p>	
<p>Partial update. [<b>Note:</b> This is for all of section 17.] <a href="#">Sec. 260C.82 MN Statutes</a>. <a href="#">2960.03080 - MN Rules Part</a>.  Added specific examples and details of implementation for Foster Youth Bill of Rights.</p>	

# A Place for Foster Youth to Be Heard

If you have been in foster care in Minnesota, the Office of the Foster Youth Ombudsperson (OOFY) is here to listen to you!



## We Listen

We listen to you about any concerns you might have about your care.



## We Inform

We provide information. We can answer questions you have, or connect you to someone else who can help answer questions.



## We Take Action

In some cases, we will take action to address your concerns. That can include:

- Looking at paperwork
- Speaking to others
- Making sure the right people know about your concern

Whenever possible, we will get your permission before taking action.



## We Recommend & Report

We may suggest changes to others to help with your concerns. For example, we might make a recommendation to your caseworker or the place where you live. We also suggest changes to people who make laws to improve foster care in Minnesota.



Contact Us



[www.mn.gov/oofy](http://www.mn.gov/oofy)



651-946-2940



[info.oofy@state.mn.us](mailto:info.oofy@state.mn.us)



[instagram.com/oofyminnesota](https://www.instagram.com/oofyminnesota)

# Not Sure Where to Turn? We're Here to Listen.

Got a question or problem in foster care? You're not alone—there are people who can help. Follow these steps to know who to talk to and when to reach out to OOFY.

1

## Talk to the person directly

If you have a question, concern, or complaint, it is a good idea to first **talk to the person directly**. This gives them a chance to fix the problem.

*If this does not help, or you do not feel comfortable talking to this person, proceed to step 2*

2

## Contact a person in charge or a trusted adult

A **person in charge** is the person who makes decisions. It could be a boss, manager, supervisor, or director.

- There should be a “formal grievance procedure” for the place you live and the county or agency that supports you. You can ask how to submit a grievance.



*A grievance is an official complaint over something believed to be wrong or unfair.*

A **trusted adult** might include your caseworker, a relative, a teacher, Guardian ad Litem, attorney, or any other adult you are comfortable talking to!

*If this does not help, or you do not know who to talk to, proceed to step 3*

3

## Reach out to OOFY

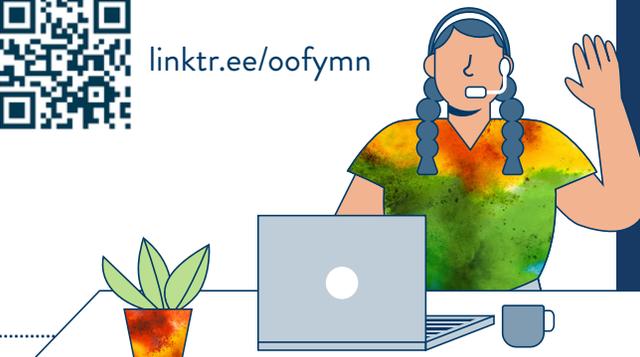
If any of the following are true, you should **contact us**:

- If you don't feel safe talking to the people listed here.
- If you don't know who to talk to, or what to do next.
- If you have already tried to get help and your problem has not been fixed.
- If you aren't sure you are in foster care.

**For more resources, or to submit a complaint, visit:**



[linktr.ee/oofymn](https://linktr.ee/oofymn)





**An association of resources and advocacy for children, youth and families**  
[www.aspiremn.org](http://www.aspiremn.org)

March 10, 2026

Dear Co-Chair Kotyza-Witthuhn, Co-Chair West and Members of the Children and Families Finance and Policy Committee,

AspireMN is a statewide association of children and family serving organizations with delivery of care in children's mental health, child welfare, and a variety of service models oriented to provide early intervention for families, meet critical needs and promote family preservation.

We appreciate the leadership from this committee in advancing HF3024 and recognizing the importance of honoring youth voices, responding to adverse experiences, and establishing clear language in statute that affirms the rights that all children and youth should have while in foster care.

Children and family service providers are often delivering care to children and youth during their experiences in foster care – across the service continuum. AspireMN supports Quality Parenting Initiative-MN and the key values of lived experience leadership, research-informed service and meaningful relationships as necessary for excellence in foster care and truly our full continuum of children and family services.

Based on experiences of serving and supporting children and youth in foster care, AspireMN supports HF3024 and establishing Minnesota's Foster Youth Bill of Rights.

Sincerely,

Kirsten Anderson  
Executive Director

**AspireMN improves the lives of children, youth and families served by member organizations through support for quality service delivery, leadership development and policy advocacy.**

1919 University Avenue W. #450, St. Paul, Minnesota 55104

Wednesday, March 10, 2026

Co-Chair Kotyza-Witthuhn, Co-Chair West, and Members of the Children and Families Finance and Policy Committee,

My name is Osahon Akpata-Tanious, Executive Director of Foster Advocates.

I am writing in strong support of the HF3024, the Foster Bill of Rights. This legislation creates a concise, consolidated Bill of Rights for Minnesota Fosters. Through its passage, we as a state are creating a uniform standard of care for young people when they are under the custody of the state.

As a State, we have clearly stated our commitment to Fosters, but we will fail to meet that promise if we do not put into place the safeguards and legal protections Fosters are owed.

We know Fosters experience varying degrees of care and support, often contingent on their location or proximity to Metro areas. Too many Fosters are currently in care, not knowing their rights under the law, or who can help when they're violated. Care received should not be contingent upon who your caseworker is, or what county your care is administered through.

Current statutes, rules, and agency policy guides are scattered and inaccessible to Fosters. The bill brings together the various chapters of law, rules, and agency policy guides to provide a uniform, accessible bill of rights for Fosters. It also requires Fosters to be informed of these rights—something not currently required or provided in care today. Consolidating and clarifying the legal rights of Fosters into a tangible document is a minimal step this State can take to demonstrate its commitment to protecting Fosters. This will have a significant impact on Fosters' ability to not only know their rights, but who can help when they're violated—while also providing caseworkers, agencies, community organizations, kin, and foster families with the structure to advocate effectively.

Foster Advocates partnered with the Ombuds Office for Foster Youth (OOFY) to conduct focus groups, ensuring Foster voices are directly informed of the bill and are in alignment with community needs.

Fosters are owed the stability and transparency this legislation brings. They are owed a comprehensive and consolidated standard of care. Every young person deserves to know their rights and who can help when those rights are violated.

I urge you all to pass this uniform baseline of dignity and empowerment for the collective children we, as a state, are tasked with caring for.

Foster Advocates strongly supports this bill, and we urge the Committee to do the same.

Osahon Akpata-Tanious  
Executive Director  
[osahon@fosteradvocates.org](mailto:osahon@fosteradvocates.org)





March 11, 2026

Representative Kotyza-Witthuhn and Representative West  
Children and Families Finance and Policy Committee  
Centennial Office Building (COB)  
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: HF 3024 – Foster Youth Bill of Rights

Dear Chair Kotyza-Witthuhn, Chair West and Members of the House Children and Families Finance and Policy Committee:

On behalf of the Minnesota Association of County Social Service Administrators (MACSSA), we offer contingent support for HF 3024, a bill that establishes a Foster Youth Bill of Rights. MACSSA appreciates the leadership of Rep. Hanson for bringing attention to this area and proposing protections for foster youth through HF 3024. The bill centers youth voice, cultural identity, sibling connection, and protections for marginalized youth experiencing care. MACSSA affirms and supports the values inherent in this legislation and calls attention to the need to address the operational and fiscal underpinnings that support this policy change at the local level.

Ensuring equity of experience for foster youth across Minnesota requires sustainable implementation, including addressing funding and operational considerations at the local level. Without a clear state-county funding structure or comprehensive implementation plan that addresses local level implementation realities, we are concerned that this legislation creates false expectations, sets up a recipe for a varied experience by county and risks furthering disparities across 87 counties. As such, MACSSA's support of HF 3024 is contingent on addressing these areas.

Youth deserve strong rights and a system that can consistently deliver on them. In addition to vision, building this system requires partnership, funding alignment and addressing operational feasibility. Counties are committed to ensuring youth experience safety, belonging, connection and opportunity. Counties support strengthening youth rights in partnership with addressing funding and operational alignment.

Sincerely,

Angie Thies  
Child Wellbeing Policy Analyst  
Association of Minnesota Counties

Paul Verrette  
Director, MACSSA  
Human Services Policy Analyst, AMC

Cc: Representative Hanson