

Foster Teens' Rights and Expectations

Note: As an older youth in foster care, you have many rights that are provided by law. This list is intended to inform you of what those rights are in an easy-to-read format and the supporting law. This list also provides services that you can expect to receive if you met all the qualifying criteria. To know whether or not you qualify for a particular service, please consult with your case manager, independent living specialist or attorney. If you have any questions or comments, please contact Dawn A. Hulbert, Attorney ad Litem, at 727-582-7837.

- You have a right to a current **Medicaid card**, which covers your health care expenses... Fla. Stat. 39.701(6)(a)1.
- You have a right to your **certified birth certificate**... Fla. Stat. 39.701(6)(a)2.
- You have a right to either a **Florida Driver's License** or a **Florida ID**... Fla. Stat. 39.701(6)(a)2.
- You have a right to assistance with securing **Social Security Insurance (SSI)** benefits... Fla. Stat. 39.701(6)(a)3.
- If you are already receiving SSI, you have a right to have those funds **saved for your benefit** and paid to you upon turning 18 years old... Fla. Stat. 39.701(6)(a)3; Fla. Admin. Code 65C-17.005
- You have the right to information and training related to **budgeting, interviewing, and parenting skills**... Fla. Stat. 39.701(6)(a)4; Fla. Stat. 409.1451(4)(b).
- You have the right to **financial assistance**, if you qualify, with your **continuing education**, called the Road to Independence Program (RTI)... Fla. Stat. 39.701(6)(a)5; Fla. Stat. 409.1451(5)(b).
- You have the right to **open a bank account** and to be provided with financial skills training... Fla. Stat. 39.701(6)(a)6; Fla. Stat. 743.044

- You have the right to information on **public assistance** and how to apply, including food stamps... Fla. Stat. 39.701(6)(a)7.
- You have the right to know **where you will be living** when you turn 18 years old and how your living expenses will be paid, and what school you will be attending... Fla. Stat. 39.701(6)(a)8.
- You have a right to ask to court to **continue jurisdiction** until you are 19 years old. This allows you to see your same judge if you have problems during this time... Fla. Stat. 39.701(6)(a)9.
- You have a right to **attend all judicial review hearings** occurring after your 17th birthday and address the court... Fla. Stat. 39.701(6)(a)10.
- You have a right to enter **into a contract or residential lease**, with court approval... Fla. Stat. 743.045.
- You have a right to **financial assistance** to prevent you from becoming homeless or other **emergencies**, also called Aftercare Support... Fla. Stat. 409.1451(5)(a).
- You have a right to **financial assistance**, if you are not going eligible for RTI, and if you have a written **transition plan**, also called Transitional Assistance... Fla. Stat. 409.1451(5)(c).
- You have the **right to appeal** a decision that denies or reduces your financial benefits... Fla. Stat. 409.1451(5)(e).