

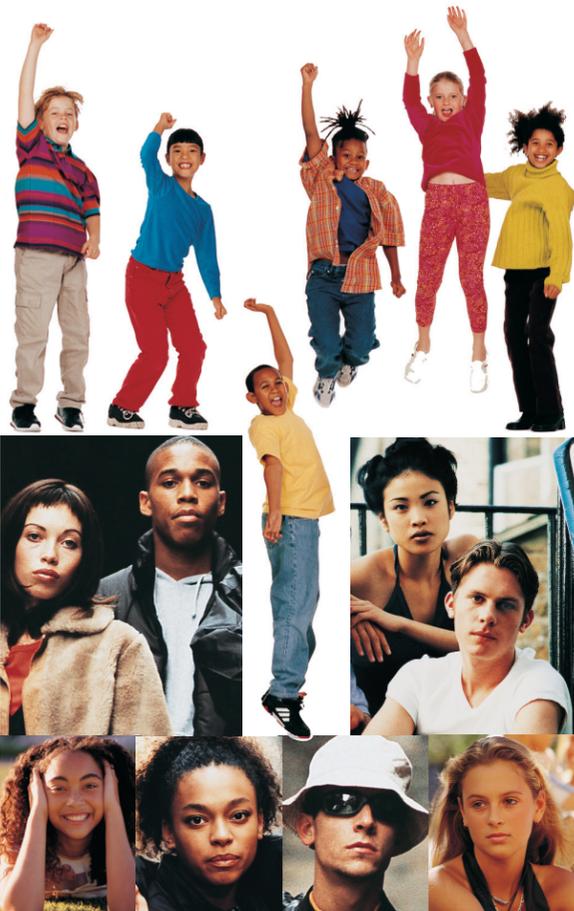
**Write important info here:**  
 Foster Care Ombudsman 1-877-846-1602  
 Your Social Worker (phone) \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Name) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Your Probation Officer (phone) \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Name) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Your Lawyer (phone) \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Name) \_\_\_\_\_

**1-877-846-1602**

**The law \* says:**  
 You have rights if you live in foster homes, group homes, shelters, or transitional housing facilities. The law also says social workers, probation officers and people where you live must tell you about your rights.

**This law also says:**  
 • Your social worker must talk with you about your rights at least once every six months;  
 • You must be told about your rights, in a way that's easy to understand;  
 • The people where you live must answer any questions you have about your rights;  
 • If six or more foster youth live in your foster home, a poster must be placed where you can see it.  
 Call if you think your rights are not followed – it's a free call and it won't show up on the phone bill!

# You have RIGHTS too!



**This** brochure is for youth in out-of-home care. It explains your rights!

- problems with your social worker
  - questions about court or your case plan
  - visits with your brothers, sisters and parents
- Your lawyer can help you with:  
 Your lawyer's job is to defend all your rights. Special situations; ask your lawyer about this.)  
 tell anyone else what you say (except in want. Most of the time, your lawyer cannot private. You can tell your lawyer anything you cannot). You can talk to your lawyer in Every youth has a lawyer (unless a judge says

### 3) Call your lawyer:

**Email:** [fosteryouthhelp@dss.ca.gov](mailto:fosteryouthhelp@dss.ca.gov)  
**Or, fill out the "Complaint Page" on our website. It's easy to do!**  
[www.fosteryouthhelp.ca.gov](http://www.fosteryouthhelp.ca.gov)

**Foster Care Ombudsman**  
 744 P Street, M.S. 9-025  
 Sacramento, CA 95814

### 2) Write:

**1-877-846-1602**  
*It's a free call!*

### Call:

**1) Call the Foster Care Ombudsman:**  
 Their job is to help youth with problems or questions. They can also tell you the name of your lawyer, social worker or probation officer.

**Who can help me if my rights are not followed?**



Ask for the name and telephone number of his/her supervisor. Call the supervisor and make a complaint.

### Problems with your lawyer or social worker?

CCL (Community Care Licensing) gives the home you live in a license to operate. You can call CCL if your home is not a healthy and safe place. You can call in private. CCL will not tell your home you called. Call the Foster Care Ombudsman to get the CCL phone number.

### Call CCL:

- have them call you back
- ask for their help
- know their name and phone number

Remember, you have the right to: taken care of.

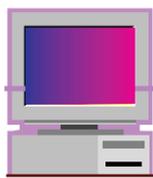
### Call your Social Worker or Probation Officer:

If you have questions or problems, CONTACT US:  
**FOSTER CARE OMBUDSMAN**



**1-877-846-1602**  
*(It's a free call!)*

**e-mail**



[fosteryouthhelp@dss.ca.gov](mailto:fosteryouthhelp@dss.ca.gov)  
[www.fosteryouthhelp.ca.gov](http://www.fosteryouthhelp.ca.gov)

**Remember:**  
 What you tell us is private  
*(except in certain circumstances).*

The Office of the State Ombudsman wishes to thank the Los Angeles Affiliate of the National Association of Counsel for Children for their pioneering efforts to inform youth of their rights in the juvenile system.

If you feel you are being discriminated against because of your sex, race, color, religion, sexual orientation, ethnic group, ancestry, national origin, gender identity, mental or physical disability or HIV status, or for any other reason, you should call the Foster Care Ombudsman Help-line for assistance.



STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
 HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY  
 DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES