



## STATEMENT OF RIGHTS OF CHILDREN

**1. Foster parents shall not subject children to exploitation in any form.**

This means that the foster parents and Shadow Mountain will not do or say things, or make you do or say things that would be mean or take advantage of you.

**2. All children shall be provided an opportunity to participate in religious services.**

This means that you are allowed to go to church services if you want to. The foster parents will take you.

**3. Each child shall be supplied with facilities and supplies for personal care, hygiene, and grooming.**

This means that you will have a bedroom with private space, clothes, shampoo, soap, toothpaste and toothbrushes, comb and brush, and other things you need to take care of yourself, look and feel good.

**4. The home or agency shall see that each child is supplied with his or her own clothing and shoes appropriate to the season, age, activities, and individual needs which are comparable to that of other children in the community.**

This means that you will have the clothes you need to have for playing, going to school, going to church, and for hot or cold weather, and that your clothes and shoes will be similar to other kids in your school and neighborhood.

**5. Except for infants, individual space in the foster home must be provided for the child's personal possessions and for a reasonable degree of privacy.**

This means that you will have either your own room, or have your own space in a room that you share with another child. You will have a place to keep your clothes and other things that belong to you, like in a closet, dresser, or shelves. "Reasonable degree of privacy" means that you will have the space to be by yourself if you want it, like at bedtime, when changing clothes, and other times you just want to be alone.

**6. Foster parents shall allow the child to bring, possess, and acquire personal belongings subject only to reasonable household rules and the child's service plan.**

This means that the foster parents will let you bring things from your own home, like some of your own clothes, shoes, toys, and other things that you want to have with you. The foster parents will let you spend your allowance to get things you want, and also will buy clothes, shoes, and some other things for you while you are living in their home.

There may be some rules of the house and of your treatment plan that would keep you from having certain things. You will need to talk with the foster parents to find out what the rules are about the things that you want to get or bring with you.

**7. Personal belongings shall be sent with the child when he or she leaves the home.**

This means that all of the things that you bring with you to the foster home, all of the things you buy for yourself with your allowance, and all of the things that are given to you at the foster home, will be yours to take with you when you leave the foster home.

**8. Foster parents shall only expect a child to perform household tasks, which are within the child's abilities, reasonable for the child's age, and similar to those expected of other household members of comparable age and ability.**

This means that you will have chores at the foster home but the chores that are given to you will be ones that you are able to do yourself or with a little help. They will not give you chores that are too difficult, that you do not know how to do, or that an adult should do.

**9. Children shall be given guidance in managing their own money.**

This means that the foster parents will help you learn how to save your money and spend it wisely.

**10. Money earned by a child or received as a gift or allowance shall be his or her personal property.**

This means that any money that is given to you for allowance or as a gift will belong to only you to do with as you please. But remember that you need to learn how to save and spend your money wisely.

**11. A child shall not be required to use earned money to pay for room and board unless it is a part of the treatment plan and approved by the parent or guardian and the agency.**

This means that you will not have to use your allowance to pay for staying at the foster home or for your food unless it is part of your treatment plan that the agency therapist would have talked with you about.

**12. Children shall have the right to privacy in writing, sending or receiving correspondence unless restricted by the service plan.**

This means that you do not have to show letters or cards to foster parents before sending them or after getting them in the mail.

**13. Children shall not be denied food, mail or visits with their families as punishment. Children shall have the right to visits with their families in accordance with their service plans.**

This means that if you do something that you get in trouble for, the foster parents will not punish you by not letting you eat by taking your mail, or by not letting you visit your family.

**14. Children shall not be subjected to remarks, which belittle or ridicule them or their families.**

This means that the foster family will not make fun of you for not being with your family, and will not make fun of your family.

**15. Children shall not be threatened with the loss of foster home placement.**

This means that the foster family will not tell you that you will have to leave their home for a punishment.

**16. Children shall not be publicly identified to their embarrassment as wards of the agency.**

This means that the foster family or anyone at Shadow Mountain will not make you feel embarrassed by telling people that you are in DHS custody or that you are a foster child.

**17. Children shall not be exploited or embarrassed by any publicity or promotional materials.**

This means that neither foster parents nor Shadow Mountain will use your story or your picture to advertise for our program, or to tell other people about you. Your story is private and we will keep it that way.

**18. Children shall not be forced to acknowledge their dependency on the child placing agency or their gratitude to it.**

This means that no one will make you tell the foster parents or Shadow Mountain that you are thankful for the family you are staying with or the things that Shadow Mountain does.

**19. Children shall have opportunity for private conversation with the agency's staff member responsible for their supervision, either at the child or agency's request.**

This means that you can speak with your therapist at Shadow Mountain by yourself, without anyone else listening. You can ask to speak with your therapist whenever you want. After 5:00 in the evening, only call your therapist for emergencies. During the day it is OK to call him or her anytime. Also, your therapist may ask to talk with you without anyone else listening.

**20. Educational opportunities shall be provided for each child in foster care in accordance with this plan of care.**

This means that you will be enrolled in a school close to the foster home. It also means that you will get the teachers and classes that you need to do the best you can in school.

**21. Children shall have the right to participate in the development of his or her treatment plan as appropriate.**

This means that you can say what things you think you need to work on while in foster care.

**22. Children have the right to develop in their own ethno cultural environment, to the extent possible.**

This means that your foster parents will be sensitive to your values, beliefs, culture, and the setting you have grown up in.

**23. Children have the right to receive services in a humane psychological environment and to be protected from harm, abuse, and neglect. No client shall ever be neglected or sexually, physically, verbally, or otherwise abused.**

This means that no one should hurt you or take advantage of you. If you feel at any time that you are being harmed, you have a right to report this to your therapist, worker, parent, school, police officer, or other trusted adult. You also have the right to contact the Shadow Mountain office to make a report and get help.

**Your Responsibilities**

1. You have a responsibility to treat foster parents, their children, TFC staff and other foster kids with courtesy and respect.
2. You have the responsibility to behave in such a way as to protect yourself and others from exposure to or transmission of any infectious or communicable diseases, including those that are sexually transmitted.
3. You have the responsibility to make your concerns known to TFC staff or your foster parents and to ask questions when you need information.

I have read the above and understand its contents.

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Foster Child Date

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Foster Parent Date

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Foster Parent Date

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TFC Therapist Date

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Parent/Legal Guardian Date