

DO YOU KNOW?

KIDS HAVE RIGHTS TOO!

FOSTER YOUTH BILL OF RIGHTS

COLORING

ACTIVITY

BOOK



COLOR, LEARN, AND KNOW YOUR RIGHTS



This book was given to me
by _____.

I can contact them at _____ if
I have any questions.



This page is intentionally left blank.

DO YOU KNOW?

WHAT ARE YOUR RIGHTS?



RIGHTS MAKE SURE YOU'RE TREATED FAIRLY.

THIS IS ME

**DRAW A
PICTURE OF
YOURSELF
HERE!**

I HAVE RIGHTS!

My name is _____. I am _____ years old.

I HAVE THE RIGHT TO BE SAFE WHERE I LIVE.



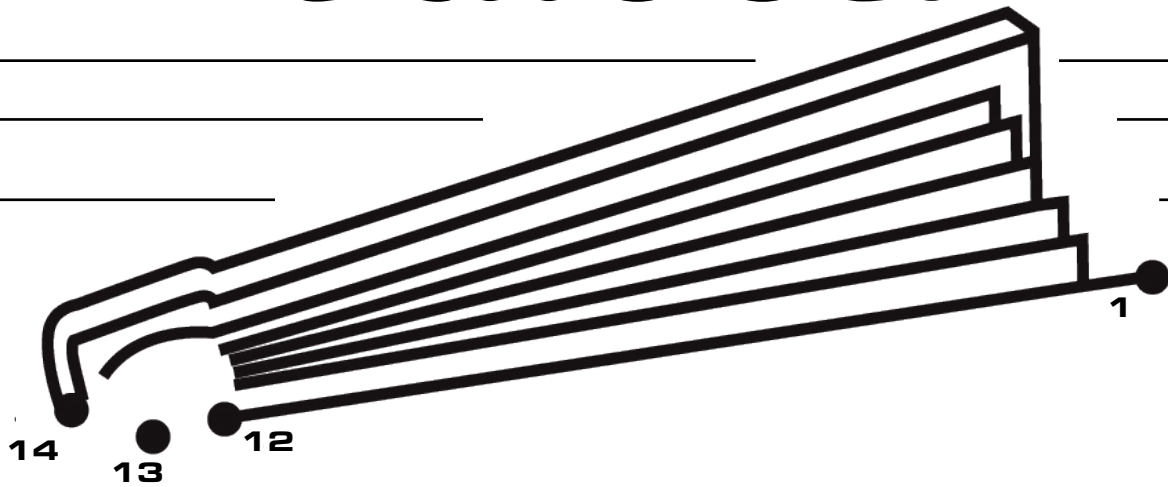
I have the right to live in a safe, healthy, and comfortable home where I am treated with respect.

**I HAVE THE
RIGHT TO SEE MY
BROTHERS AND
SISTERS.**

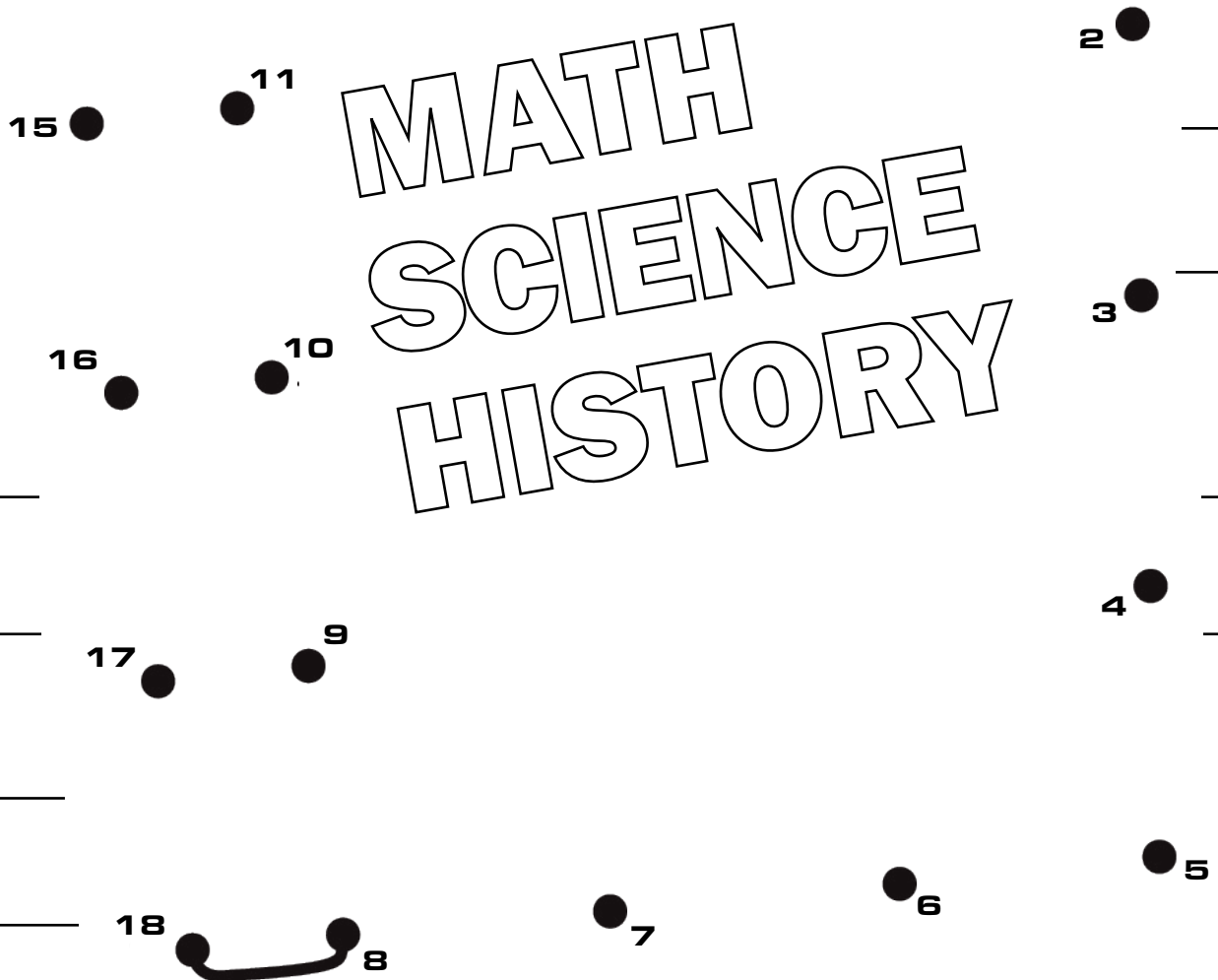


I have the right to ask the court to plan family time with my siblings and other family members.

I HAVE THE RIGHT TO GET HELP AT SCHOOL.



MATH
SCIENCE
HISTORY



**I HAVE THE RIGHT
TO GET AN
ALLOWANCE.**



I HAVE THE RIGHT TO BE HEALTHY.



I HAVE THE RIGHT TO PRIVACY.



I HAVE THE RIGHT TO THE THINGS I NEED.



FIND THESE
ITEMS

I HAVE THE RIGHT TO HAVE FRIENDS.

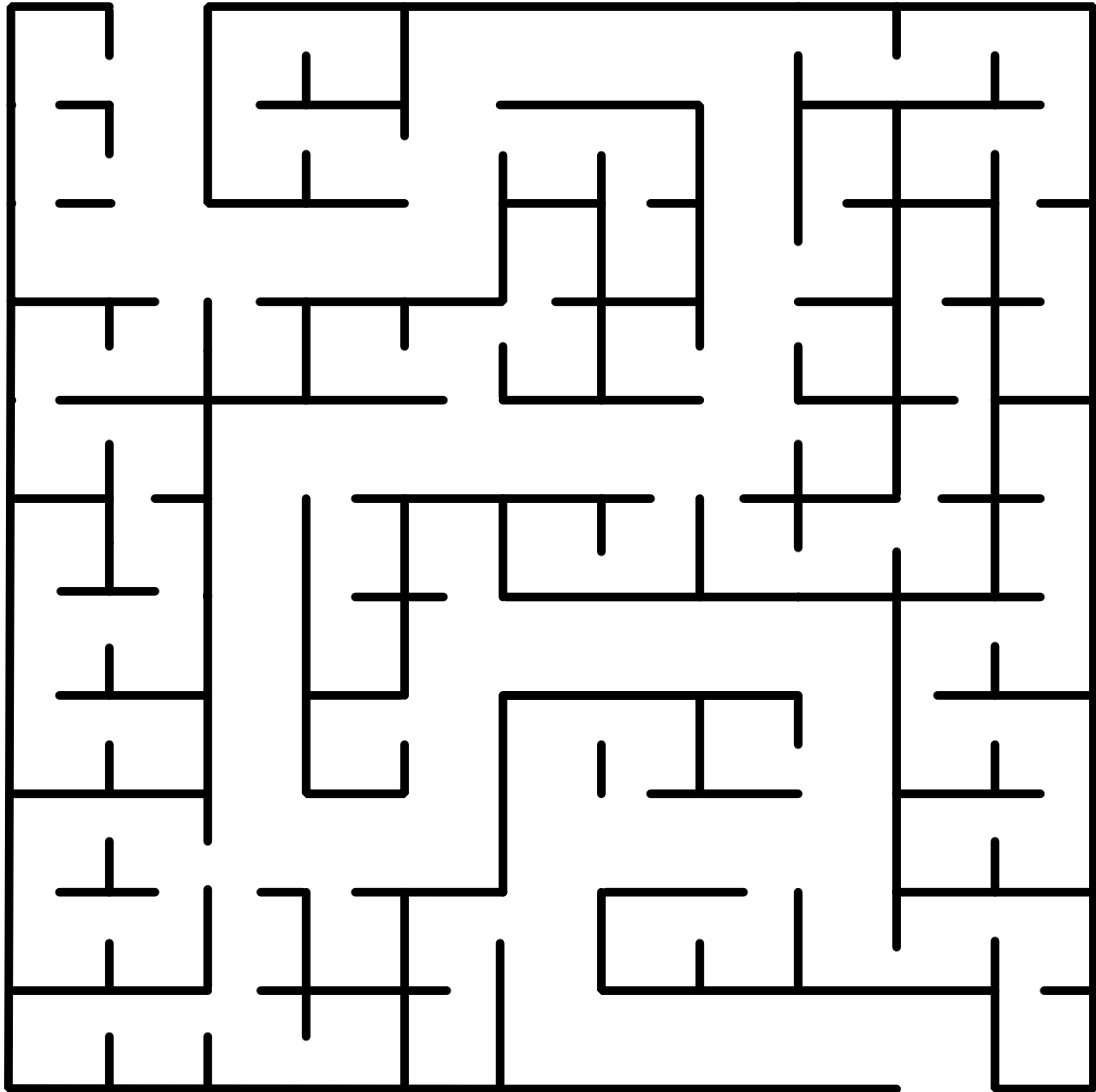


I can see and talk to people who are not in foster care.

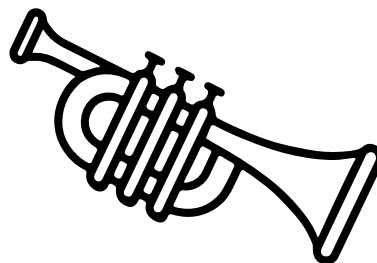
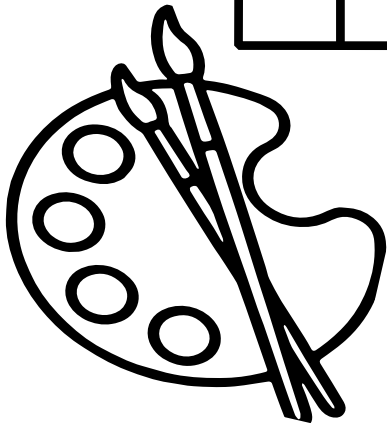
I HAVE THE RIGHT TO AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES.

Get to the end of the maze to find fun things you can do! What is your favorite activity?

START



FINISH



THESE ARE MY RIGHTS!

Review your rights together!

[illegible]

FOSTER YOUTH BILL OF RIGHTS

A Guide to Your Rights in Foster Care



Personal Rights

You have the right to live in a safe, comfortable home where you are treated with respect and to have/receive:

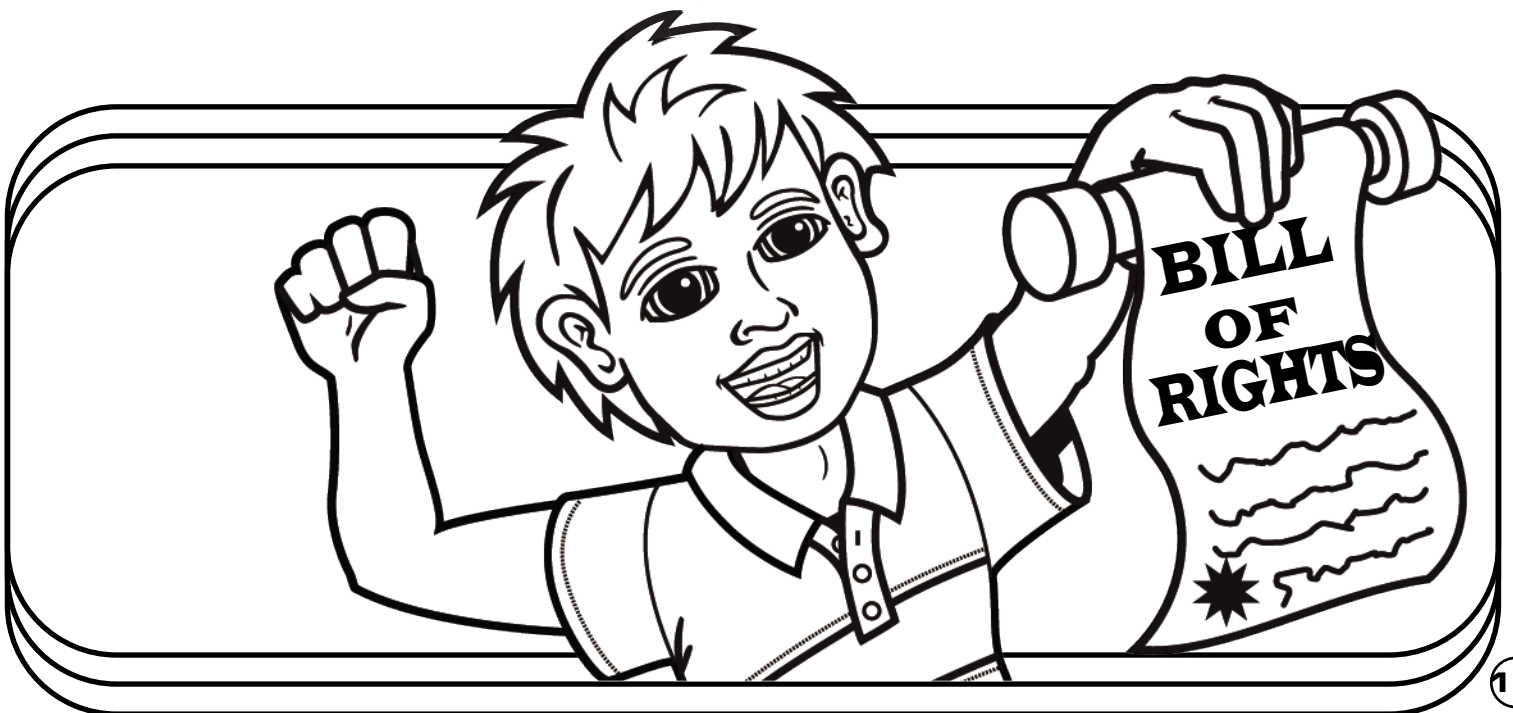
- a copy of your rights in the language of your choice
- enough clothes and healthy food
- clothing, grooming, and hygiene products that respect your culture and ethnicity
- a private place to keep your things
- a phone you can use to make private calls*
- a caregiver with special training on trauma and ways to help you

You have the right to:

- go/not go to religious services and activities of your choice
- participate in cultural, racial, ethnic, personal enrichment, and social activities
- fair and equal access to all available foster care services, placements, care, and benefits

No one can:

- lock you in a room or a building (unless you are in a community treatment facility)
- make you stay in juvenile hall because they can't find you a home
- use law enforcement as a threat or retaliation
- abuse you physically, sexually, emotionally, or exploit you for any reason
- punish you by physically hurting you for any reason
- look through your things unless they have a reasonable or legal reason
- treat you unfairly because of your race, ethnicity, ancestry, national origin, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, mental or physical disability, HIV status, or membership in a federally recognized Indian Tribe

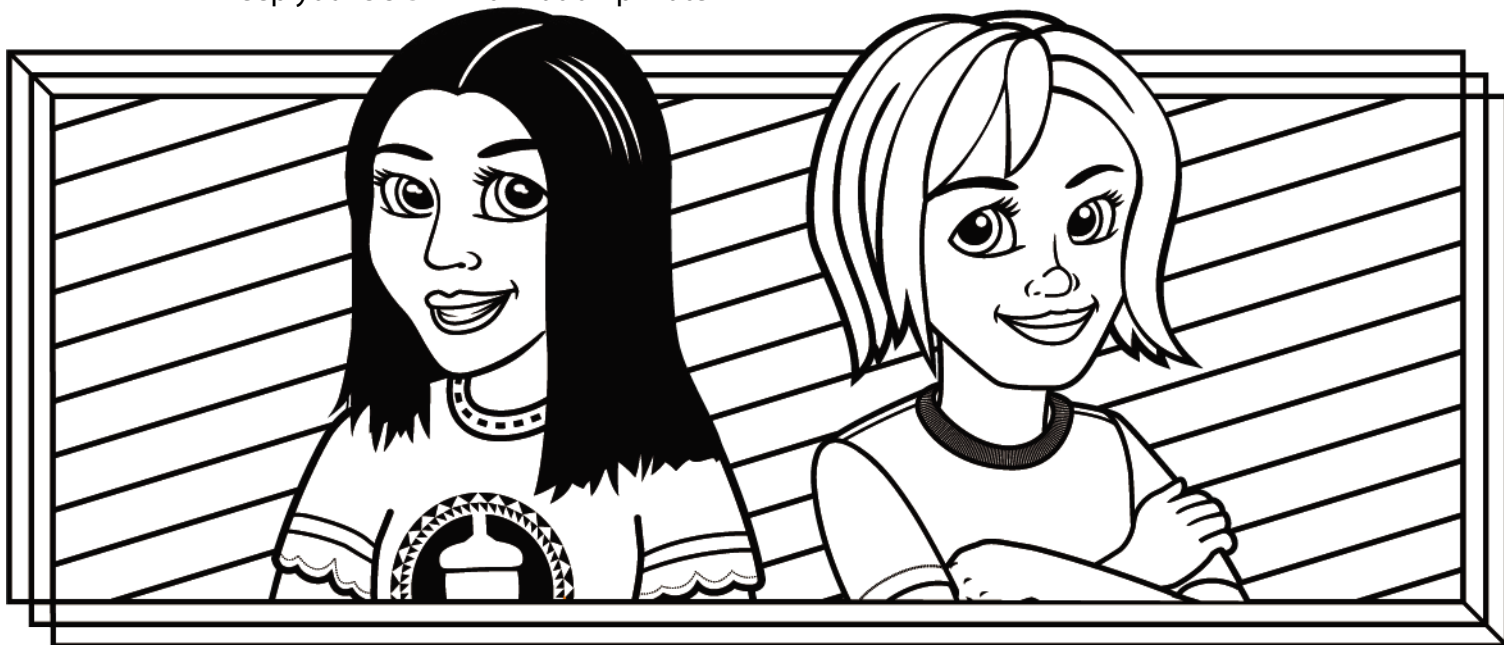




Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression (SOGIE)

You have the right to:

- live in a home or Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Program (STRTP) based on your gender identity
- be called by your chosen name and gender pronouns
- see a doctor or counselor who is gender affirming
- have clothing, grooming, and hygiene products that respect your gender identity and expression
- have a caregiver, social worker/probation officer, and lawyer trained on SOGIE and how to care for LGBTQ+ youth
- keep your SOGIE information private



Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA)

Are you a member, or could you be a member of a federally recognized Indian Tribe? You have the right to:

- live in a home or STRTP that maintains the social and cultural standards of your Tribe and tribal community
- live in the home of your relatives or extended family, or a home that is licensed, approved, or specified by your Tribe
- live in an Indian foster home, or facility that is licensed, approved, or specified by your Tribe or an Indian organization and meets your needs
- live in a place that reflects and keeps you connected to the cultural and social standards of your Tribe and/or tribal community
- contact your Tribal Representative and have them attend court
- contact your Tribe, extended family members, and tribal community
- have a social worker/probation officer and lawyer who is trained in ICWA
- participate in traditional Native American spiritual, cultural, and ceremonial practices
- get help becoming a member or citizen of an Indian Tribe or Alaskan village
- get all of the benefits of being a member or citizen of an Indian Tribe or Alaskan village
- be free from discrimination and be recognized for your relationship with an Indian Tribe or Alaskan village
- have protections for your tribal relationship in your case plan



Education

You have the right to:

- go to school every day
- get help with school
- stay at your same school if it's best for you
- enroll right away at a new school
- get partial credits for all classes you were passing if you change schools and you may have the right to modified graduation requirements
- go to after-school activities
- have priority enrollment in pre-school and after-school programs
- have priority enrollment at California State Universities and community colleges
- access information about college and career education programs



Family and Social Connections

You have the right to:

- have family time and contact your parents, siblings, and other family members in private*
- contact people who are not in the foster care system, like friends, church members, teachers, and others*



Case Plan

You have the right to:

- help create your case plan
- have a case plan within 60 days of being in foster care
- have your case plan updated at least every 6 months
- be told of any changes to your case plan
- get a copy of your case plan in your preferred language if you are age 10 and older
- have your Tribe involved in case plan decisions

Your case plan will have:

- health and education plans
- the best place for you to live
- the services you need
- culturally appropriate care in the case of an Indian child
- a long-term plan for where you will live
- gender-affirming healthcare plans
- plans for family time with your parents and siblings
- a Transition to Independent Living Plan (TILP) in your preferred language, if you are 16 or older



Court

You have the right to:

- be told about court hearings in writing
- go to court and talk to the judge
- tell the judge what you want to have happen in your case
- tell the judge how you feel about your psychotropic medications
- ask the judge for family time with your siblings
- request a hearing if you feel like your lawyer is not acting in your best interest
- ask for people to be in the courtroom or ask for people to leave
- keep your court records private*
- tell the judge how you feel about your family, lawyer, and social worker/probation officer
- a lawyer separate from your parents and the county
- receive a copy of the court report in your preferred language

Your lawyer must:

- keep what you tell them private
- have special training on ICWA and SOGIE
- make sure you are safe and have the services and supports you need
- tell the judge what you want to happen
- answer any questions you have about court, foster care, and other laws



Children and Family Team (CFT)

You have the right to:

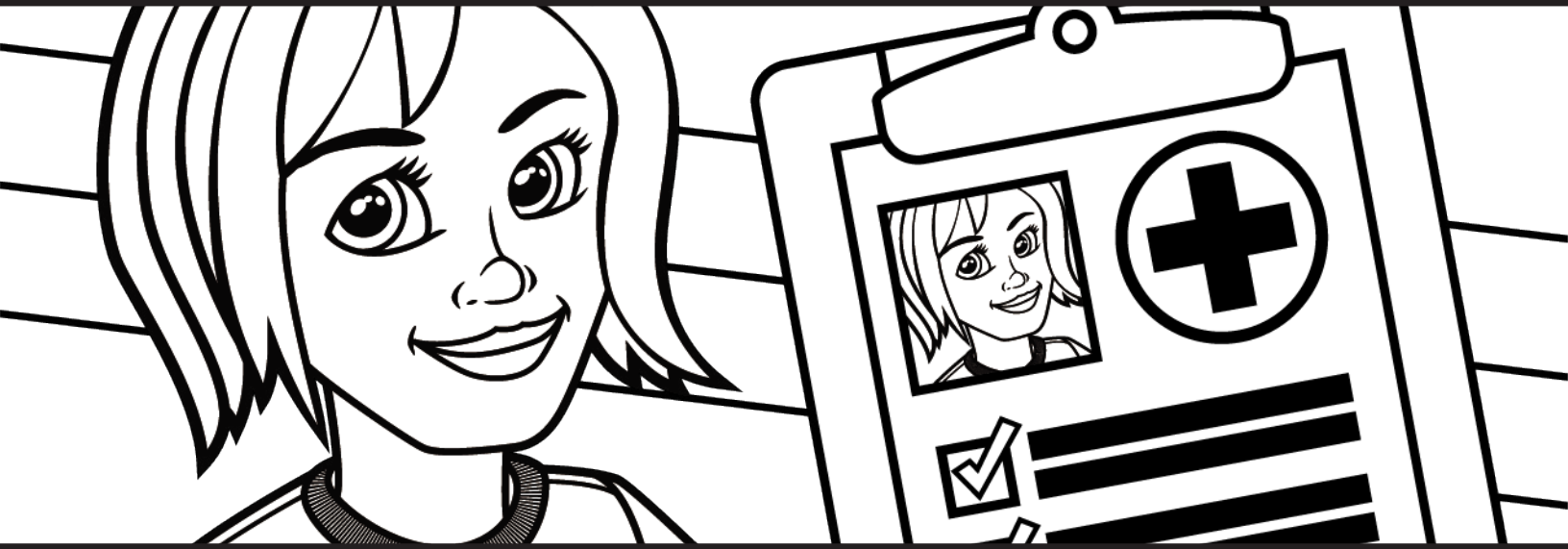
- request CFT meetings
- have people who help and support you at your CFT meetings
- talk about your strengths and needs in your CFT meetings
- a CFT meeting within 60 days of entering foster care
- a CFT meeting every 6 months
- a CFT meeting at least every 90 days if you are in an STRTP or in a therapeutic foster home
- a CFT meeting at least every 90 days if you are getting certain types of services
- a CFT meeting when any changes are going to be made to your case plan



Health

You have the right to:

- see a doctor, dentist, eye doctor, or talk to a counselor when needed
- see a doctor who is gender affirming
- refuse to take any medicine, vitamins, or herbs and no one can punish you
- keep your medical records private
- have the risks/benefits of treatment explained in a way you understand



Mental Health

You have the right to:

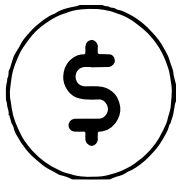
- keep your mental health records private
- get gender affirming mental health treatment
- work with your doctor to safely stop taking psychotropic medication
- refuse to take psychotropic medication and no one can punish you
- know about your diagnosis(es) and understand treatment options
- get help with an alcohol or drug problem without permission
- receive mental health services in a place that meets your needs
- if you are 12 years or older, choose your own doctor or counselor, and make decisions about your mental health treatment



Sexual & Reproductive Health

You have the right to:

- get information about your sexual health in a way you understand
- use or refuse services for birth control, condoms, other types of protection, and pregnancy care, including abortion, without telling an adult
- get healthcare services for sexual assault without telling an adult
- if you are 12 years or older, choose your own doctor or counselor, and make decisions about preventing, testing, or treating sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and HIV without permission from an adult

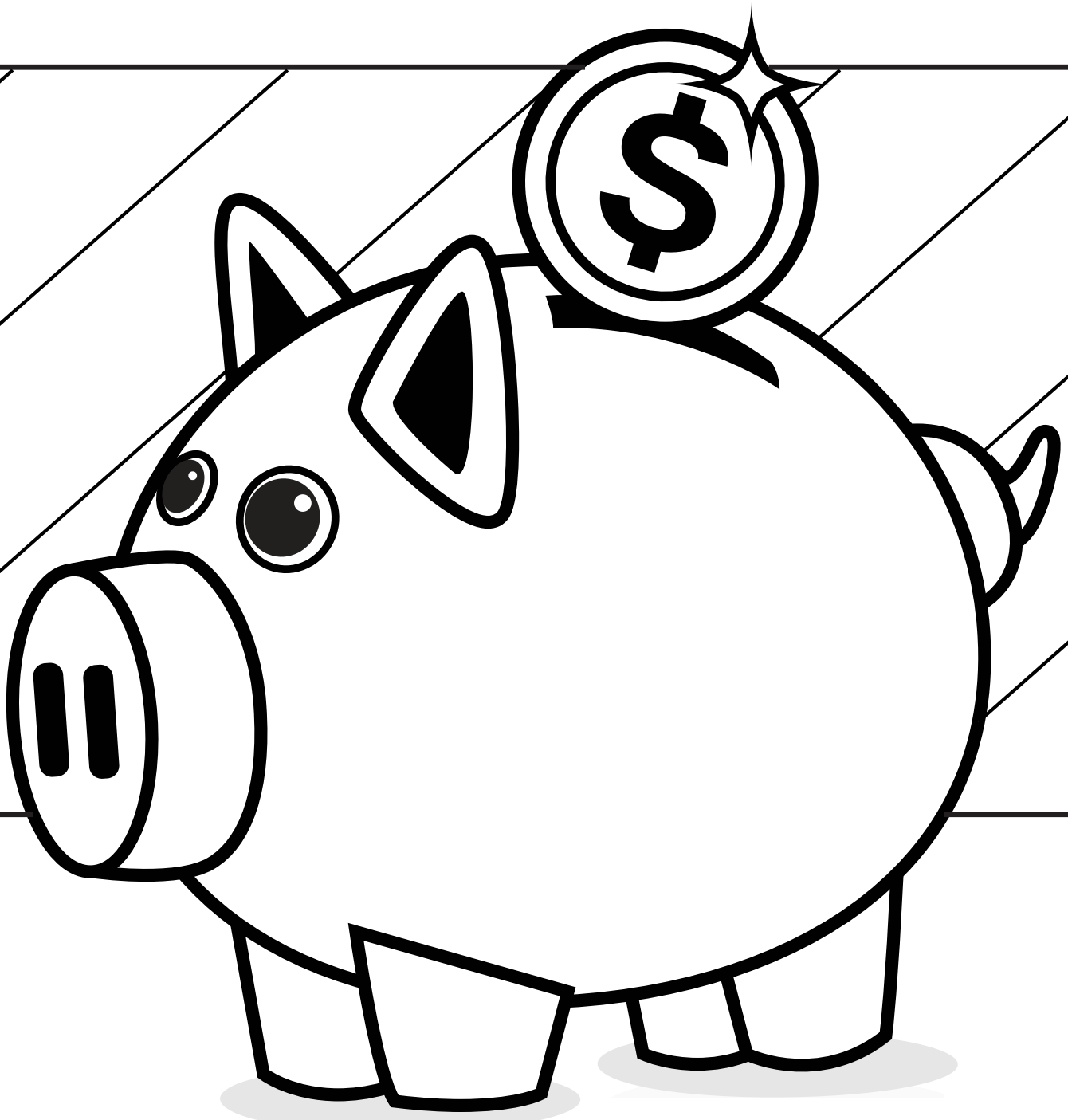


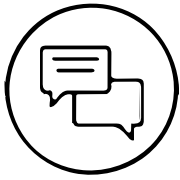
Preparing for Adulthood and Money Management

You have the right to do some things on your own.

You have the right to:

- have an allowance
- your own bank account*
- learn job skills for your age
- work*
- earn, save, and manage your money*
- go to an Independent Living Program*
- beginning at age 14, get a credit report every year from 3 major reporting agencies and have help fixing any issues





Communications

You have the right to:

- use a phone to make and receive private calls
- use a computer and the internet
- privately use email, text messages, or other electronic communication
- send and receive unopened mail

These rights can be changed if there is a safety concern. Only a judge can take these away or stop you from communicating with certain people.

You have the right to contact the following people in private and no one can stop you or punish you for speaking with them:

- your social worker/probation worker
- your lawyer
- service providers
- foster youth advocates and Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs)
- Education Rights Holder
- your Tribe and Tribal Representative (if you have one)
- Office of the Foster Care Ombudsperson (OFCO)
- Community Care Licensing Division (CCLD)



Records

You have the right to see and get a free copy of the following until you are 26:

- medical records
- child welfare records
- juvenile court records
- educational records

*some rights may be limited by law or a judge's order

HERE'S CONTACT INFO FOR SOME PEOPLE IMPORTANT TO ME:

NAME: _____

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____

PHONE: _____

NAME: _____

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____

PHONE: _____

YOUTH SURVEY

Take a private survey and tell us about your caregivers. Your story can help other kids in foster care! <https://bit.ly/4mQBvDC>



YOU HAVE RIGHTS!

You have the right to speak to these offices immediately and confidentially.
You cannot be threatened, punished, or retaliated against
for making complaints.



WHO TO CALL ABOUT MY RIGHTS

California Foster Care Ombudsperson

Helpline: 1-877-846-1602

Website: www.fosteryouthhelp.ca.gov

Email: fosteryouthhelp@dss.ca.gov

For additional resources, please visit: <https://bit.ly/45ZgHUD>, scan the QR Code, or call 877-846-1602 to request a printed copy.



Community Care Licensing Division

Helpline: 1-844-538-8766

Website: <https://cdss.ca.gov/inforesources/community-care-licensing>

Email: letusno@dss.ca.gov

**For more resources, information, and a deeper
look into the Foster Youth Bill of Rights, visit
fosteryouthhelp.ca.gov**

