Children’s Rights

The rights of children listed below were taken from the OKDHS publication Licensing Requirements for Child Placing Agencies, and these rights ensure children in out-of-home care are:

* Receive fair and equitable treatment in the receipt of services, as well as enforcement of policies and rules.
  + Communicated with in the language the child understands, as well as to receive adaptive communication techniques or devices to facilitate communication.
  + Enabled to participate in decisions about their care, in compliance with state and federal regulations.
  + Not forced to participate in publicity or promotional activities.
  + Not publicly identified to their embarrassment as wards of the agency.
  + Provided an opportunity to participate in religious services.
  + Supplied with facilities and supplies for personal care, hygiene and grooming.
  + Supplied with clothing and shoes appropriate to the season, age, activities and individual needs and are comparable to that of other children in the community.
  + Provided space in the resource home for the child’s personal possessions and for a reasonable degree of privacy.
  + The right to bring, possess, and acquire personal belongings subject only to reasonable household rules and the child’s service plan.
  + Given their personal belongings when the child leaves the home.
  + Expected to perform only household tasks that 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.
  + Given guidance in managing their own money.
    - Money earned by the child or received as a gift or allowance is the child’s personal property.
    - The child is not required to use earned money to pay for room and board, unless it is a part of the service plan
  + Plan and approved by the parent or custodian and OKDHS.
  + Allowed privacy in writing, sending or receiving correspondence unless restricted by the service plan.
  + Not denied meals as punishment.
  + Not subjected to remarks that belittle or ridicule the child or the child’s family.
  + Allowed to visit with the child’s family, in accordance with the service plan.
  + Not forced to acknowledge dependency on OKDHS or resource home or acknowledge gratitude to them.
  + Given the opportunity, at the child’s request or OKDHS’ request, for private conversation with OKDHS’ staff members who are responsible for the child’s supervision.
  + To be provided educational opportunities in accordance with the child’s plan of care.
  + To be provided regular opportunities to engage in age appropriate or developmentally appropriate activities.