

Charter of Rights

(Children/Youth)

As a child/youth, you have the right¹:

- *to live in a caring, secure and nurturing environment where you are fed, clothed and looked after.*
- *to be told what is in your plan of care.*
- *to be consulted and to express your views, according to your abilities, about important decisions that affect you.*
- *to reasonable privacy and to have your own personal belongings.*
- *not to be punished physically or in any other abusive way.*
- *to be told how your caregivers expect you to behave, and what will happen if you do not meet their expectations.*
- *to receive medical and dental care when you need it.*
- *take part in social and recreational activities if they are available in the community and suited to your interest and abilities.*
- *to receive religious instruction and to take part in the religious activities of your choice.*
- *to receive guidance and encouragement to maintain your cultural heritage.*
- *to an interpreter if language or disability prevents you from getting involved in plans for your care or custody.*
- *to talk privately with members of your family unless a court order restricts your right to have contact with someone.*
- *to privacy during discussions with a lawyer, the Office for Children and Youth, the Ombudsman, a member of British Columbia's Legislative Assembly (MLA) or a Member of Parliament (MP).*
- *to be informed about the Office for Children and Youth, and to have someone help you get in touch with them.*
- *to be told about your rights under the Child, Family and Community Service Act, and how to enforce them. Your worker or caregiver will explain your rights. If there is anything you do not understand, ask for help.*

¹ Original source: Ministry of Children and Family Development, web-site; www.mcf.gov.bc.ca