

CHARTER OF RIGHTS Children/Youth

As a child/youth, you have the right to¹:

- live in a caring, secure and nurturing environment where you are fed, clothed and looked after.
- be told what is in your plan of care.
- be consulted and to express your views, according to your abilities, about important decisions that affect you.
- reasonable privacy and to have your own personal belongings.
- not to be punished physically or in any other abusive way.
- be told how your caregivers expect you to behave, and what will happen if you do not meet their expectations.
- 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 interests and abilities.
- receive religious instruction and to take part in the religious activities of your choice.
- receive guidance and encouragement to keep your cultural heritage.
- have an interpreter, if needed, for important decisions around where you live or your care.
- privacy during discussions with family members, if the law allows it.
- privacy during discussions with legal representatives.
- be informed about and to be assisted in contacting a legal representative, including the Ombudsperson.
- be informed of your rights and the ways to ensure we respect your rights.

In addition to the rights listed above, indigenous children also have the right:

- to receive guidance, encouragement and support to learn about and practise their Indigenous traditions, customs and languages, and
- to belong to their Indigenous communities.

¹ From the Ministry for Children and Family Development; available on their website at: http://www.bclaws.ca/Recon/document/ID/freeside/00_96046_01#section70

