

**ABOUT TEXAS FOSTER YOUTH  
JUSTICE PROJECT**

The Texas Foster Youth Justice Project provides free and confidential legal assistance to current foster youth and those who have aged out of foster care. We can help you with legal issues related to being in foster care and successfully transitioning out of foster care.

**Texas Foster Youth Justice Project**

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**Knowledge**

**Action**

**Power**

**Texas Foster Youth  
Justice Project**

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**(877) 313-3688**

**Texas Foster Youth  
Justice Project**



Get a lawyer you can trust from the Texas Foster Youth Justice Project. The Project provides free and confidential legal assistance to foster youth and former foster youth.

#### **Do you want to...**

- stay in contact with your siblings?
- go to your CPS court hearings?
- get health insurance?
- get benefits and services for aged out foster youth?
- tell the court where you want to live and go to school?
- get a tuition waiver so you can go to college for free?
- understand your immigration status?
- change your name?
- get a copy of your CPS records?
- have a say in what medication you take?
- get identification documents such as birth certificates, social security cards and State IDs?
- get PAL (Preparation for Adult Living) services?
- learn about extended foster care?
- learn about housing benefits?
- ask a question your caseworker can't answer?
- access government benefits such as Medicaid and SSI?

#### **KNOW YOUR RIGHTS**

- You have the right to attend your court hearings and speak to the judge.
- You have the right to a Texas identification card, social security card, and birth certificate when you are 16 years old.
- You have the right to stay in foster care or return to foster care after you turn 18.
- You have the right to visit and have contact with your siblings.
- You have the right to send and receive unopened mail.
- You have the right to benefits and services for aged out foster youth.
- You have the right to report abuse, neglect, or exploitation without fear of punishment or retaliation.
- You have the right to keep the money you earn.

You have many, many more rights.

#### **TAKE ACTION TO KEEP YOUR RIGHTS**

**If you know your legal rights and take action based on that knowledge, you have the power to change the system. You have rights even after you age out of foster care. You have the power to make the system better. It's up to you to speak out so that your rights are protected.**

**If you think something isn't right, you should contact the Texas Foster Youth Justice Project.**

#### **You can:**

- Visit our web site at [www.texasfosteryouth.org/ask\\_legal\\_question.html](http://www.texasfosteryouth.org/ask_legal_question.html);
- E-mail us at [info@texasfosteryouth.org](mailto:info@texasfosteryouth.org); or
- Call us at (877) 313-3688.

