

My Rights as a Child or Teen in Care

Know your rights

As a child or teen under the care of Peel Children's Aid, you have the right to:

Live in an emotionally caring home that respects you as an individual.

Expect that the agency will protect your well-being and protect you from harm.

While you are in the care of the agency, have any concerns about your safety and well being fully investigated and the investigative process explained to you.

Be consulted and express your views on major decisions about your medical needs, education, religion and placement.

Be informed when you come into care about your rights, the complaints procedure, and the existence of the Advocacy Office.

Know about the placement review process if you are 12 years of age or older.

Be informed of your responsibilities in the place where you are going to live and know the house rules and discipline procedures.

Receive appropriate clothing and have a place to store it.

Receive an education according to your abilities and in a community setting where appropriate; participate in recreational activities according to your abilities and interest and in a community setting if possible.

Visit and speak with your family in private unless the court rules otherwise.

Send and receive mail that is not opened by another person, unless there are concerns that it may be harmful.

Have reasonable privacy and possession of your own personal property.

Receive religious instruction and participate in the religious activities of your choice.

Have a plan of care designed to meet your needs and prepared within thirty days of your admission to care, and participate in developing your plan of care.

Have your plan of care reviewed regularly with your involvement and, if needed, have the plan changed.

Not be physically disciplined or locked up.

Speak in private with and be visited by a lawyer, a representative of the Child Advocacy Office; his or her ombudsman or staff; a member of parliament or legislature or your social worker.

MY RIGHTS AS A CHILD OR TEEN IN CARE

My Social Worker's Name is:

If your rights are not met

If any of your rights are not being honoured, you have the right to complain.

If you disagree with, or are dissatisfied with, the service you are receiving from Peel Children's Aid, we want to know. If you think something should be available to you that isn't, we want to know that too. When there is a disagreement or problem, we will do our best to resolve it.

First, discuss your concerns with your social worker. If you can't work it out, you can ask for a meeting with the supervisor. If you, the social worker and the supervisor can't resolve the situation, the supervisor will explain Peel Children's Aid's formal complaints procedure to you.

I have the right to:

Be respected

Feel safe

Help make plans concerning me with my social worker

A caring environment

Nutritious foods

Go to school

Appropriate discipline

Personal relevant information from my file

Private visits with my family, unless the Judge says no

Keep my heritage

Practice my own religion

Go to court if I am over 12, unless the Judge says no

Be who I am

Play sports and games

Privacy, where appropriate and within reasonable limits

Regular medical and dental care

Know about the complaints procedure

Send and receive mail that has not be read by others (unless it is potentially harmful)

Be aware of the rules and expectations of the home

Express my feelings and ask for changes

Talk in private with my social worker, child advocate, lawyer or member of parliament



PEEL CHILDREN'S AID

PROTECTING CHILDREN AND SUPPORTING FAMILIES