

You have the right:

- To be treated with dignity and respect by all.
- To be free of discrimination regardless of race, color, religion, gender, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, national origin, military status, disability, age, or genetic information.
- To be trained and receive support to strengthen your parenting skills to meet the needs as the provider for children in your care.
- To review the non-confidential information in your home study.
- To receive clear expectations on your role in partnership with the child in foster care, the child's family, and all other team members.
- To access a staff person at both your recommending agency, as well as the child's custodial agency, inside and outside of normal business hours.
- To be informed of all known information about a child placed in your home, including information that may impact the health, safety, and well-being of any member of your family and community.
- To be invited to, and attend court hearings and agency meetings, including the right to share information during those hearings and meetings, concerning the child in your care.
- To receive training on the reasonable and prudent parent standard and, once trained, to act as the reasonable and prudent parent in making decisions for the children in your care so they can participate in normal childhood activities that still maintain their health and safety.
- To participate with the agency in efforts to achieve the permanency goal identified in the case plan, to support supplemental planning, and to participate in treatment planning, which may include independent living skills for older children (age 14 and up) in your care.
- To be informed of the process available to submit grievances and/or complaints, including these rights, and to make your concerns known without fear of retaliation.
- To be informed of allegations of maltreatment made against you, points of contact, and what to anticipate while under investigation. This includes the right to be informed of what supports and resources are available to you during the process and how the outcome may affect your relationship with the agencies you work with.
- To be informed if the rights of a resource caregiver conflict with the rights of a youth in foster care, and if the rights of the youth will preempt the rights of the resource family or resource caregiver. (Example: If the youth does not want to attend a church/synagogue/mosque, or practice in a faith, and the resource family wants them to attend, the youth's right to determine for themselves will preempt the resource family in this instance, as outlined in OAC 5101:2-5-35).



Who are resource families?

Resource families include both foster and kinship caregiver families. These families serve as a resource to the children services agency, the child, and the child's family.

The information in this brochure should be provided to every resource family in Ohio. It's important that resource families are aware of their rights and all agency policies that impact them and any children in their care. If you need additional information, your recommending agency is responsible for answering your questions and providing support through training to strengthen your skills.

This brochure follows the guidance provided in Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) rule 5101:2-42-20. Nothing in this rule supersedes the requirement for resource caregivers to follow agency policies.



If you have a question about your rights or feel your rights have been violated, you can contact your recommending agency worker or their supervisor, the child's custodial agency caseworker or their supervisor, the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) foster care licensing staff, or the ODJFS Help Desk. Each agency has its own internal policy for escalating concerns, as outlined in OAC 5101:2-5-13.

These rights do not create grounds for a civil action against ODJFS, the recommending agency, or the custodial agency.

If you were unable to resolve your concerns at the local level or via the ODJFS office listed above, you can reach out to the Youth and Family Ombudsmen Office by calling 1-877-649-6884 or completing the online complaint form at: familyombudsman.ohio.gov. The Family Ombudsman receives, investigates and attempts to resolve complaints related to government services regarding child protective services, foster care and adoption. The Family Ombudsman cannot change court-ordered decisions, respond to emergencies, provide legal advice or investigate allegations of child abuse or neglect.





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Join the Squad and discover your inner resilience.

@HeyImHereOhio is a youth-led community engaged in normalizing life's up's and down's. Our community of Ohio youth meet monthly to share stories, offer encouragement, and practice resilience skills.

Together, you can discover your strength and grow the resilience needed to face everyday adversity.

Connect with us at
@HeyImHereOhio and
join the conversation with
#HeyImHere

