

What are the rights and responsibilities ...Of your biological family?

Listed below are some of the rights and responsibilities of your biological family while you're in foster care:

- To tell you why you're in foster care and what changes need to be made so you can go home. If your family does not do this, your caseworker can explain things to you.
- To be told about and take part in court reviews and case planning meetings.
- To keep scheduled visits with you and contact you through phone calls, and letters, unless restricted by court, DHHS, or you.
- To work with DHHS and you to develop a permanent plan.
- To tell DHHS of their address, telephone number, living arrangements and any other changes that may affect your case.
- To give financial support to the state for your care, depending on their ability to pay.
- To be part of your life through activities, such as school meetings, as long as it is safe for you.
- To make a written formal complaint to the Department about services they are unhappy about.
- To be informed of your health, education and placement.
- To terminate their parental rights if they are not able or willing to make it safe for you to return home.
- To support visits between siblings when they do not live together.

"No one better knows oneself than oneself."

Nate P., age 17

...Answers for youth in care, by youth in care