

LGBTQI YOUTH IN THE FOSTER CARE SYSTEM— HAVE RIGHTS TOO !

You have the right to live in a safe, comfortable, home or facility, where you are treated with **R-E-S-P-E-C-T**.

If your foster parents will not accept your gender identity or sexual orientation and you **feel UNSAFE**, you have the right to request another placement.

If you are being **harassed** or **threatened** by another youth or facility staff, your social worker must do something to stop it.

No one can physically, sexually or emotionally abuse you!!

You have the right to have friends and mentors outside of the foster care system, including LGBTQI youth and adults.

You have the right to attend activities for LGBTQI youth, like a gay prom, LGBTQI youth groups, and Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA) meetings. These activities can be included in your treatment plan—to guarantee your involvement.

If other youth in your placement status and on your level can date, then you can too!



State of Connecticut



Department of Children & Families

You have the right to safe medical care that's right for you.

No one can harass you, tease you, or hurt you because of your inherent sexuality, gender identity, race, sex, physical or mental disability or because you are HIV positive.

You have the right to participate in religious activities, and you have the right to choose your religion and how you practice it. You also have the right *not* to participate in religious activities if you don't want to.

If you have a problem, you have the right to contact:

**DCF Complaint Department
(Office of the Ombudsperson)
1-860-550-6381**

**True Colors, Inc.
1-888-565-5551 or 860-649-7386**

**Safe Harbor Project
1-800-842-6346**

Lambda Legal: 1-212-809-8585

Child Advocate: 1-860-550-2106

You have the right to confidentiality about what you say and to be protected from retaliation for reporting the violation of your rights.

When you have a problem, the best bet is to talk with someone you can trust; your guardian, a family member, a teacher, guidance counselor, coach, peer counselor, doctor or nurse, priest, minister or rabbi, social worker or attorney.

The person you turn to may not have all the facts you need and that's where this brochure can help. If you feel you have no one to talk to, the resources given here will provide you with support and information.