

SECTION: Rights and Responsibilities

SUBJECT: Rights of Children in Care

Policy No.: 2.1

Date: June 2005

Reviewed: Annually

Revised: February 2015, 2018

Rights of Children in Care

All individuals in care have the right to:

- 1) Be treated with dignity and respect.
- 2) Live in clean, safe surroundings.
- 3) Receive reasonable guidance, support and supervision.
- 4) Receive meals that are well balanced, of quality and appropriate for the child.
- 5) Speak in private with, visit and receive visits from members of his/her family regularly.
- 6) Send and receive mail that is not read, examined or censored by another person.
- 7) Have reasonable privacy and possession of his/her own personal property.
- 8) Receive the religious/cultural/heritage instruction and participate in the religious/cultural/heritage activities of his/her choice when requested.
- 9) Receive services provided in a manner that respects religious/cultural/heritage differences.
- 10) Be provided with clothing that is of good quality and appropriate for the child, given the child's size and activities and prevailing weather conditions.
- 11) Receive medical and dental care, at regular intervals and whenever required, in a community setting whenever possible.
- 12) Participate in recreational and leisure activities that are appropriate for the child's aptitude and interests, in a community setting whenever possible.
- 13) Be heard. To be consulted and to express his/her views, to the extent that is practical given the child's level of understanding.
- 14) Be informed, in a language suitable for the child's level of understanding of:
 - the internal complaints procedure, the existence of the Office of Child and Family Service Advocacy and Ombudsman Office, the child's responsibilities while in the

placement and the day-to-day operation of the residential respite program.

- 15) Be free from physical abuse and inhumane treatment.
- 16) Be kept safe from unauthorized intrusive methods in maintaining behaviour.
- 17) Have the right to receive an education that corresponds to the child's aptitudes and abilities, in a community setting whenever possible.
- 18) Participate in the development of the child's individual plan of care and in any changes made to it.
- 19) Be protected from unauthorized publicity by having strict confidentiality maintained on their behalf.
- 20) Have family or guardians directly involved in decisions regarding their individualized program, health and general development.
- 21) Have 24 hours access to family or guardians (provided no legal restraints are in effect).
- 22) Have the right to medical care according to each client's health program (Plan of Care)
- 23) Has the right to receive inclusive services that are non-discriminatory and take into account ethnical, racial, linguistic, ancestral and gender identity diversity.

All respite individuals, and their parents or guardian, will be informed of the rights and responsibilities on the planning of their first Plan of Care, at each visit, and at the time of Annual Renewal. It is the responsibility of the admitting staff member to review with the respite individual, and their parent or guardian, their rights and responsibilities and to document that the rights and responsibilities have been reviewed in the child's log. Annually this information will be recorded on the Plan of Care document.