INSTRUCTIONS

The child or youth's case manager shall review the Foster Child and Youth Bill of Rights with children in the custody of the Department of Children's Services ("DCS") within 30 days of the child's foster care placement. The case manager shall review the bill of rights:

- in person with the child or youth within 30 days of placement; and
- give the child or youth a copy of the Foster Child and Youth Bill of Rights each time the child or youth is explained their rights; and

For children under 13, or those who may have limited ability to understand their rights, the case manager must indicate on the signature page by selecting the appropriate checkbox, that the Bill of Rights was explained in an age-appropriate way.

The child or youth's case manager shall review the Foster Child and Youth Bill of Rights with children and youth annually thereafter as part of their annual permanency hearing and provide them with a current copy of the bill of rights. In an event where the child does not attend their court hearing, the case manager shall meet with the child prior to the court hearing and explain their rights, give them a copy, and ensure they are aware of their court hearing and their Guardian Ad Litem (GAL)'s contact information.

The case manager will ensure that the child receives a copy of page 2 of this document, and the child/youth and case manager sign the acknowledgment form on page 3 of this document.

Tennessee Foster Child and Youth Bill of Rights

The Tennessee Department of Children's Services recognizes the following bill of rights of children and youth in foster care. These rights are intended to guide the Department and its providers in the delivery of care and services to foster children and youth.

If you are in the custody of the Tennessee Department of Children's Services, you have the rights listed below:

1. To go to school and receive an education that fits your age and individual needs;
2. To benefit from appropriate care and treatment in the least restrictive setting possible;
3. To live in a safe, healthy environment that is free from abuse, neglect, and pests;
4. To receive medical, dental, vision, and mental health services as recommended by an appropriate professional, and to be informed about diagnoses and treatment options as is developmentally appropriate;
5. To be free from punishment that involves placing restrictions on or supervision of contact with legal representatives, including any appointed Guardian ad Litem (GAL), Attorney ad Litem, or appointed counsel with whom you have a right to discuss confidential information;
6. To report any violation of the rights specified in this section without fear of punishment, interference, coercion, or retaliation.

Department of Children's Services

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If you do not understand the rights listed above or have questions, ask your case manager and/or Guardian Ad Litem to go over your rights with you. If you are a foster parent and have concerns or questions, ask the child's case manager and/or Guardian Ad Litem to go over the child's rights with you. If there are further concerns, contact DCS Customer Relations at 1-800-861-1935 or via email at DCS.Custsrv@tn.gov.

Please confirm that you are using the current version of this form and disregard previous versions.
This form may not be altered without prior approval.

Acknowledgement of Receipt of Foster Child Bill of Rights

Name of Custodial Child/Youth: _____

Child/Youth Date of Birth: _____ Electronic Record System Child ID: _____

Assigned DCS CM: _____ Assigned DCS CM Supervisor: _____

- I have received a copy of the Foster Child Bill of Rights, and my rights as a foster child in the custody of the Tennessee Department of Children's Services (DCS) have been explained to me.
- I understand I, or my representative, may report a suspected concern regarding my rights to the DCS Customer Relations Unit via telephone at 1-800-861-1935 or via email at DCS.Custsrv@tn.gov
- If applicable, I have been informed that I have been appointed a GAL and other representation. I understand this legal counsel is available to speak to me to advise me of my rights and answer any questions I may have.

_____ _____
Custodial Child/Youth Signature Date

I have provided the child/youth with a copy of the Bill of Rights and provided an explanation of these rights utilizing age-appropriate materials.

☐ These rights were explained in an age-appropriate manner for children 13 years or younger, or for those whose capacity to understand their rights may be limited.

_____ _____
DCS Case Manager/Staff or DCS Supervisor Signature Date

Child/Youth _____ refused to sign this document; however, the contents of the document were explained to them on this date.

_____ _____
DCS Case Manager or DCS Supervisor Signature Date