

# THE MEGAPHONE!

[what **YOU** need2know about **FOSTER CARE**]

Promoting the voices of Manitoba's children and youth

**2014**

i am... **A YOUTH**

**issue 10**

Check out our other info sheets for **SERVICE PROVIDERS & THE GENERAL PUBLIC!**

## **YOU HAVE RIGHTS WHEN YOU'RE IN CARE!**

### **DO YOU KNOW WHAT THEY ARE?**

### **(CUZ U SHOULD!)**



#### **YOU HAVE THE RIGHT:**

- To have your rights explained to you.
- To say what you think and how you feel.
- To be kept safe from neglect and from sexual/physical/emotional harm.
- To have your basic needs met - like healthy food, clean clothing, a place to live, to feel respected & valued - regardless of where you live.
- To know who your social worker is and how to contact them. You also have the right to speak to your social worker on a regular basis.
- To feel safe, valued & respected. You also have the right to have your spiritual,

cultural and religious beliefs accepted and respected.

- To personal space and privacy. This could include not having your foster parents or group home staff going through your bedroom or your personal things unless there are safety concerns.
- To a written copy of your care plan & the right to participate when that plan is being made or changed.
- To have information about you kept confidential. This means that social workers and foster parents should only be discussing information about you with other people that need to know. For example, doctors, counsellors or teachers.
- To be given the support services and counselling that you need.
- To attend court and have your own lawyer represent what you want and need if you are over 12. You have the right to tell a judge what you need and give your opinion about decisions that are being made about you and your future.
- **You have the right to contact the Children's Advocate Office if you feel people are not listening to you or if you think your rights aren't being protected. You have the right to ask the Children's Advocate to help you speak your mind and stand up for what you need.**

## **CALL US! WE ARE HERE TO HELP.**

(Adapted from the publication *Moving In Moving On Moving Out*, created by Voices, Manitoba's Youth In Care Network [www.voices.mb.ca](http://www.voices.mb.ca))



UNCRC Article 27

You have the right to food, clothing and a safe place to live in a caring environment.

## **Office of the Children's Advocate**

100-346 Portage Ave Winnipeg, MB R3C 0C3

(204) 988-7440 or 1-800-263-7146 toll free in Manitoba

On twitter @ocadvocate

or find us at [facebook.com/ocadvocate](https://www.facebook.com/ocadvocate)

**[www.childrensadvocate.mb.ca](http://www.childrensadvocate.mb.ca)**

Courage does not always roar.

Sometimes it's the quiet voice at the end of the day saying,

I will try again tomorrow.

### "HOME"

It's another new place to stay  
Someone new will come  
Sometimes I could hide away  
Here's a question

I think about, **'can I call it home again?'**

New people to share my story to  
What else can I possibly lose?

It's another new family.

I put my trust in their arms  
I will not runaway - I will give it a chance and stay

In the long run I'll show who I am and keep strong

even if things go all wrong

I'll get by and hopefully I'll call a place

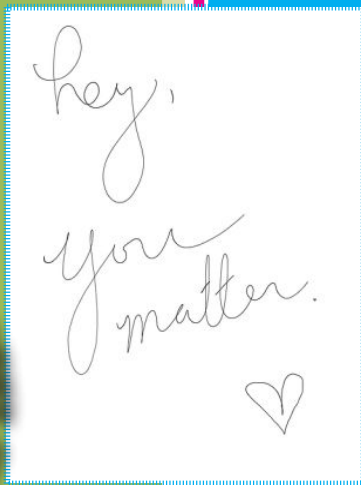
### HOME

The words, **HOME SWEET HOME** are a good thing"

*A youth in care tells us about learning to define "HOME."*

**SUPPORT BEYOND TERMINATION**  
In certain circumstances, a youth's support from an agency can be extended beyond age 18 to help them transition to adulthood. This currently applies to permanent wards only.

**VOLUNTARY PLACEMENT AGREEMENT (VPA)**  
When a child or youth is placed in care at the request of their parent or guardian. Under a VPA, there is no transfer of guardianship; a VPA is meant to be temporary.



SOURCES  
Maggie Kuhn Quote - <http://www.heartfulart.com/Merchant2/graphics/00000001/M23SpeakYourMind.jpg>  
Youth in Care Rights - [http://www.childrensadvocate.mb.ca/wp-content/uploads/Youth-in-Care-January.final\\_.2007.pdf](http://www.childrensadvocate.mb.ca/wp-content/uploads/Youth-in-Care-January.final_.2007.pdf)  
Graffiti Heart image - <http://davidgerstein.us/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/David-Gerstein-GRAFFITI-HEART-480x482.jpg>  
Hey You Matter image - <http://data1.whicdn.com/images/72964602/thumb.jpg>  
Happy stick boy image - [http://1.bp.blogspot.com/\\_L\\_CtNT1g668/TFJEdRrfgvI/AAAAAAAAACw/JajzDNvax4c/s1600/Cute+little+stick+boy.jpg](http://1.bp.blogspot.com/_L_CtNT1g668/TFJEdRrfgvI/AAAAAAAAACw/JajzDNvax4c/s1600/Cute+little+stick+boy.jpg)  
Graffiti border for poem - [http://ai.psd.co/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/graffiti\\_banner.jpg](http://ai.psd.co/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/graffiti_banner.jpg)

## ASK THE ADVOCATE! Q&A ABOUT FOSTER CARE

**Q:** I just found out that I have to move from the foster home to a different one but I don't want to go. Can you help me to stay?

**A:** You may be able to stay with your foster family but every situation is different. What we can do is help you to understand what is happening and make sure that your wishes are heard by the people who are making the decisions.

**Q:** I'm turning 18 soon and have to leave CFS care but I don't want to leave my foster home. What should I do?

**A:** Many young people turning 18 don't feel ready to be on their own. It's normal to feel that way. We can help you figure out what you think you need and we can make sure people making decisions about your care know your feelings. In some cases, we can advocate for you to get **Support Beyond Termination**.

**Q:** In my old foster home I got an allowance, but in my new foster home my foster parents won't give me one. Am I supposed to get an allowance?

**A:** Yes, you are to get an allowance for your own use. Let your social worker know you have not received allowance or if you do not feel comfortable speaking to your social worker, we can speak to your social worker for you.

**CASE PLAN**  
Sometimes referred to as a "case plan" or "treatment plan", this refers to the formal plan for a child in care. This plan should be in a written document.

**TEMPORARY WARD**  
Refers to a child who is under temporary guardianship of a child and family services agency. All guardianship rights and responsibilities of the child's parents or guardians are suspended for a period of time determined by the court.

**PERMANENT WARD**  
Refers to a child who is under the permanent guardianship of a child and family services agency. The guardianship rights of the child's parents or guardians have been terminated.

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