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The Office of Youth and Community Restoration (OYCR) Ombudsperson is responsible for developing a youth friendly document that explains the Youth Bill of Rights for youth that are in juvenile justice facilities in California. The law also requires that the Youth Bill of Rights be translated into Spanish and other languages. The OYCR Ombudsperson is required by law (Welfare and Institutions Code 224.74) to get feedback from youth, youth advocate and support groups, and groups representing children, families, children’s facilities, and other interested people in developing the document that explains the rights in a way that is youth friendly and easy for youth to understand. The law also requires that Probation Departments and Juvenile Justice facilities to give this document to youth, to explain their rights to them, answer any questions a youth has about these, and to provide the document to the parents or guardians of a youth in a juvenile justice facility (Welfare and Institutions Code 224.72).

In the table below we have listed the youth bill of rights as they are written in law in the blue column. In the orange column, we have listed those same rights in more youth friendly language.

The OYCR Ombudsperson needs your help with two things. First, we are asking for your feedback and help improving the youth friendly language. Second, we want to hear from you about the design of the Bill of Rights document that will be given to youth in juvenile facilities in California.

Please send all feedback to [OYCR@chhs.ca.gov](mailto:OYCR@chhs.ca.gov). We will accept feedback from stakeholders and the public from July 7, 2023 to July 31, 2023.

<b>Statutory Language</b> <i>(This column has the bill of rights as written in Welfare and Institutions Code 224.71)</i>	<b>Youth Friendly Language</b> <i>(This column has the rights written in more youth friendly language)</i>
It is the policy of the state that all youth confined in a juvenile facility shall have the following rights, which are established by existing law and regulation:	In our state, we have rules to protect the rights of young people who are in a juvenile hall, camp or other juvenile facility. These rights are based on the laws and regulations that exist. Below is a list of the rights:
a) To live in a safe, healthy, and clean environment conducive to treatment, positive youth development, and healing and where they are treated with dignity and respect.	You have the right to live in a safe, healthy, and clean place that assists you in getting the help, skills, and training you need to heal and return home. You have the right to be treated with dignity and respect.

<p>b) To be free from physical, sexual, emotional, or other abuse, or corporal punishment.</p>	<p>You have the right to not be hurt or abused in any way. This includes physical, sexual, emotional, or any other abuse. No one is allowed to punish you by hitting you.</p> <p>You should tell your probation officer, attorney, or a trusted adult if you are being abused. You can also call the Office of Youth and Community Restoration Ombudsperson at 1-844-402-1880.</p>
<p>c) To receive adequate and healthy meals and snacks, clean water at any time, timely access to toilets, access to daily showers, sufficient personal hygiene items, clean bedding, and clean clothing in good repair, including clean undergarments on a daily basis, and new underwear that fits. Clothing, grooming, and hygiene products shall be adequate and respect the child’s culture, ethnicity, and gender identity and expression.</p>	<p>You have the right to healthy food to eat, and clean water to drink at any time.</p> <p>You have the right to use the bathroom when you need to and to take a shower every day.</p> <p>You have the right to have clean bedding and clothes that fit you and are in good condition.</p> <p>You have the right to have clean underwear every day that fit you properly.</p> <p>You have the right to have the things you need for grooming (like soap, shampoo, deodorant, feminine products, and lotion) that respect your culture, ethnicity, gender identity, and expression. This means that you can have hair and body products that are best for your type of hair and skin and gender.</p>
<p>d) To receive adequate, appropriate, and timely medical, reproductive, dental, vision, and mental health services provided by qualified professionals and consistent with current professional standards of care.</p>	<p>You have the right to have timely access to doctors, dentists, eye doctors, reproductive care, and mental health services. All these services should be given to you by professionals who have the training and licenses to provide you with the type of care that you are getting.</p>
<p>e) To refuse the administration of psychotropic and other medications consistent with applicable law or unless immediately necessary for the preservation of life or the prevention of serious bodily harm.</p>	<p>You have the right to say no to certain medicines that are used to help with mental health. The only time this right can be taken away from you is if it is needed to save your life or protect you or others from serious harm.</p>

	<p>Psychotropic medications are medicines used to help with mental health conditions. You should always talk with your doctor about your concerns and the risks of not taking a medication. If you want to stop taking a medication you are already on, you should work with your doctor to do this in a safe way. You can also tell your lawyer and probation officer how you feel about the medications you are taking, any side effects, or other concerns you might have about these medications.</p>
<p>f) To not be searched for the purpose of harassment or humiliation, a form of discipline or punishment, or to verify the youth's gender. To searches that preserve the privacy and dignity of the person and to have access to a written search policy at any time, including the policy on who may perform searches.</p>	<p>You have the right to not be searched just to make you feel bad or embarrassed, or to punish you. If they need to search you, they should do it in a way that respects your privacy and dignity.</p> <p>You cannot be searched just to verify your gender. You can ask to see the rules about searching at any time and these policies must say who can do the searches.</p>
<p>g) To maintain frequent and continuing contact with parents, guardians, siblings, children, and extended family members, through visits, telephone calls, and mail. Youth may be provided with access to computer technology and the internet for maintaining relationships with family as an alternative, but not as a replacement for, in-person visiting.</p>	<p>You have the right to keep in touch with your family, like your parents, brothers and sisters, other relatives, mentors, godparents, clergy, teachers, neighbors, and family friends. You can talk to them on the phone, visit them, or send them letters. If you have access to a computer, you can use it to connect with your family, but it shouldn't replace seeing them in person.</p>
<p>h) To make and receive confidential telephone calls, send and receive confidential mail, and have confidential visits with attorneys and their authorized representatives, ombudspersons, including the Division of the Ombudsperson of the Office of Youth and Community Restoration, and other advocates, holders of public office, state and federal court personnel, and legal service organizations.</p>	<p>You have the right to make private phone calls, send and receive private mail, and have private visits with your lawyer, the Office of Youth and Community Restoration Ombudsperson, advocates, court personnel, people who give you legal services, and people who hold a public office.</p> <p>You have the right to have these visits and letters be confidential, which means that the Probation Department is not allowed to be listening or recording these visits or looking at mail or letters</p>

	<p>that you send to these people or they send to you.</p>
<p>i) To have fair and equal access to all available services, housing, care, treatment, and benefits, and to not be subjected to discrimination or harassment on the basis of actual or perceived race, ethnicity, ancestry, national origin, language, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, mental or physical disability, immigration status, or HIV status.</p>	<p>You have the right to be treated fairly and equally. You should not be treated unfairly because of your race, ethnicity, ancestry, national origin, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, mental or physical disability, immigration, or HIV status.</p> <p>You have the right to have fair and equal access to get help, find a place to live, get medical care, and other services you need.</p>
<p>j) To have daily opportunities for age-appropriate physical exercise and recreation, including time spent outdoors and access to leisure reading, letter writing, and entertainment.</p>	<p>You have the right to have time to play and do physical activities every day, and to go outside.</p> <p>You have the right to have books and time to read, to write letters, and to do fun things to do that match your age and maturity.</p>
<p>k) To contact attorneys, ombudspersons, including the Division of the Ombudsperson of the Office of Youth and Community Restoration, and other advocates, and representatives of state or local agencies, regarding conditions of confinement or violations of rights, and to be free from retaliation for making these contacts or complaints.</p>	<p>You have the right to talk to your lawyer, the Office of Youth and Community Restoration Ombudsperson, advocates, and certain people who work for the government about your rights being violated and what is happening inside the facility. You cannot be punished for contacting them.</p>
<p>l) To exercise the religious or spiritual practice of their choice and to participate in or refuse to participate in religious services and activities.</p>	<p>You have the right to practice your religion or spiritual beliefs. You can choose to go to religious services or not.</p>
<p>m) To not be deprived of any of the following as a disciplinary measure: food, contact with parents, guardians, family, or attorneys, sleep, exercise, education, bedding, clothing, access to religious services, a daily shower, clean water, a toilet, hygiene products, medical services, reading material, or the right to send and receive mail; to not be subject</p>	<p>No one is allowed to take away things, like food, talking to your family, sleep, exercise, education, bedding, clean clothes, going to religious services, a daily shower, clean water, a toilet, grooming products, medical care, reading materials, and sending or getting mail to punish you.</p>

<p>to room confinement as a disciplinary measure; to access written disciplinary policies, including the right to be informed of accusations against them, have an opportunity to be heard, present evidence and testimony, and their right to appeal disciplinary decisions.</p>	<p>You have the right to be given the rules on discipline. You must be given these rules in writing.</p> <p>You have the right to not be locked in a room as a punishment.</p> <p>If someone accuses you of something, you have the right to know what it is, to say what happened and share things to defend yourself and appeal the decision if you think it's unfair.</p>
<p>n) To receive a rigorous, quality education that complies with state law, and the abilities of students and prepares them for high school graduation, career entry, and postsecondary education; to attend appropriate level school classes and vocational training; to have access to postsecondary academic and career technical education courses and programs; to have access to computer technology and the internet for the purposes of education and to continue to receive educational services while on disciplinary or medical status; and to have access to information about the educational options available to youth.</p>	<p>You have the right to get a good education that follows the law and helps you prepare for high school, college, or a job.</p> <p>You have the right to have access to the classes and training for your grade level.</p> <p>You have the right to attend college and job training programs.</p> <p>You have the right to use a computer and the internet for your school or job training program.</p> <p>You have the right to go to school and job training even if you are in trouble or not feeling well.</p>
<p>o) To information about their rights as parents, including available parental support, reunification advocacy, and opportunities to maintain or develop a connection with their children; to access educational information or programming about pregnancy, infant care, parenting, and breast-feeding, and childhood development; to proper prenatal care, diet, vitamins, nutrition, and medical treatment; to counseling for pregnant and post partum youth; to not be restrained by the use of leg irons, waist chains, or handcuffs behind the body while pregnant or in recovery after delivery; to not be restrained during a medical emergency, labor, delivery, or</p>	<p>If you are a parent, you have the right to get information and help to take care of your child, your rights as a parent, things that can support you as a parent, reunification help, and ways you can stay connected with your child.</p> <p>You have the right to get education and special training on pregnancy, caring for your baby, parenting, breast-feeding, and child development.</p> <p>You have the right to get proper medical care if you are pregnant, including prenatal care, food and nutrition that is best for pregnancy, vitamins, other medical treatment that is needed to keep</p>

<p>recovery unless deemed necessary for their safety and security, and to have restraints removed when a medical professional determines removal is medically necessary; and to access written policies about pregnant, post partum, and lactating youth.</p>	<p>you and your pregnancy healthy, and counseling for you before and after your baby is born.</p> <p>You have the right to not be put in restraints like ankle or waist chains or handcuffs behind your back when you are pregnant or recovering after giving birth.</p> <p>You have the right to not be restrained during a medical emergency, labor, delivery, or recovery unless it is necessary for safety and security and to have them removed if a doctor or nurse determines you need to have them removed to provide you medical care.</p> <p>You have the right to access written policies that explain how pregnant, nursing, and new parents should be treated.</p>
<p>p) To attend all court hearings pertaining to them.</p>	<p>You have the right to go to all the court hearings that involve you.</p>
<p>q) To have counsel and a prompt probable cause hearing when detained on probation violations.</p>	<p>You have the right to have a lawyer and a court hearing, called a probable cause hearing, if you are being held in a juvenile facility for probation violations.</p>
<p>r) To make at least two free telephone calls within an hour after initially being placed in a juvenile facility following an arrest.</p>	<p>You have the right to make at least two free phone calls within an hour of when you first arrive at a juvenile facility.</p>

**Youth Bill of Rights: Design Ideas**

The document we will create has to have all the rights in it and written in a way that is easy for youth to understand. We also want the document to look youth friendly and we want your ideas on the design, colors, images, drawings, pictures, layout, size, fonts, and any other ideas you think are important for us to know when we decide how the Youth Bill of Rights will look.

Document Items	Your ideas:
Design	
Colors	

Images	
Drawings	
Pictures	
Layout	
Size	
Fonts	
Other Ideas	
Things to Avoid	