

Rights of Newcomer Families when Working With Child Welfare

Rights of Parents & Caregivers

Families have rights if child welfare becomes involved. These rights exist to protect your family and make sure you are treated fairly. You have the right to:

- **Receive language access:** You have the right to an interpreter and translated information if you need it.
- **Be treated with respect:** Your culture, beliefs, and family traditions should be respected.
- **Understand what is happening:** You can ask questions and have things explained in clear language.
- **Know the concerns:** You have the right to know why child welfare is involved with your family.
- **Try to keep your children at home if it is safe:** The goal of child welfare is to support families, not separate them.
- **Participate in decisions:** You can share your story and be part of planning for your family.
- **Obtain a lawyer or legal help in court cases:** If the court is involved, you have the right to legal representation.
- **Keep your information private:** Your information should be kept confidential and not shared with immigration or other organizations without your permission.



Rights of Children & Youth

Children and youth also have rights when child welfare is involved. Children and youth have the right to:

- Be **safe**
- Have your needs, wants and preferences heard and included in decisions
- Receive services in your community that meet your needs
- Access **education** and **health care**.
- Receive **respectful treatment**.
- Maintain their **culture, language, and traditions**.
- **Stay connected** to parents, siblings, and relatives when possible.
- Have **legal representation** and advocacy.
- Keep your **information private**

