

HOUSE BILL NO. HB0226

Foster parents bill of rights.

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Clem and Freeman and  
Senator(s) Hastert

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to children; creating the foster parents  
2 bill of rights; and providing for an effective date.

3

4 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

5

6 **Section 1.** W.S. 14-14-101 and 14-14-102 are created  
7 to read:

8

9

CHAPTER 14

10

FOSTER PARENTS BILL OF RIGHTS

11

12 **14-14-101. Short title.**

13

14 This chapter may be cited as the "foster parents bill of  
15 rights."

1

2           **14-14-102. Foster parents bill of rights.**

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4           (a) The legislature finds that foster parents  
5 providing care for children who are in the custody of the  
6 department of family services play an integral,  
7 indispensable and vital role in the state's effort to care  
8 for dependent children displaced from their homes. The  
9 legislature further finds that it is in the best interest  
10 of Wyoming's child welfare system to acknowledge foster  
11 parents as active and participating members of this system  
12 and to support them, to the extent allowed under state and  
13 federal law, through the following bill of rights for  
14 foster parents who care for children in the custody of the  
15 department of family services through direct approval and  
16 placement by the department:

17

18           (i) The right to be treated by the department of  
19 family services and other partners in the care of abused  
20 and neglected children with dignity, respect and trust as a  
21 primary provider of foster care and a member of the  
22 professional team caring for foster children;

23

1           (ii) The right not to be discriminated against  
2 on the basis of religion, race, color, creed, gender,  
3 marital status, national origin, age or physical handicap;  
4

5           (iii) The right to continue with the foster  
6 parent's own family values and beliefs, so long as those  
7 values and beliefs do not infringe upon the values and  
8 beliefs of the foster child and the birth family and the  
9 foster parent considers the special needs of children who  
10 have experienced trauma and separation from their families.  
11 This right shall include the right to exercise parental  
12 authority within the limits of policies, procedures and  
13 other directions of the department of family services and  
14 within the limits of state and federal law;  
15

16           (iv) The right to receive both standardized  
17 preservice training, including training in department of  
18 family services policies and procedures, and appropriate  
19 ongoing training by the department of family services or  
20 the placing agency at appropriate intervals to meet  
21 mutually assessed needs of the foster child and to improve  
22 foster parenting skills and to apprise foster parents of

1 any changes in policies and procedures of the department of  
2 family services and any changes in applicable law;

3

4 (v) The right to be apprised of information,  
5 laws and guidelines on the obligations, responsibilities  
6 and opportunities of foster parenting and to be kept  
7 informed of any changes in laws, policies and procedures  
8 regarding foster parenting by the department of family  
9 services in a timely manner and at least annually;

10

11 (vi) The right to receive timely financial  
12 reimbursement according to the agreement between the foster  
13 parent and the department of family services and to be  
14 notified of any costs or expenses for which the foster  
15 parent may be eligible for reimbursement;

16

17 (vii) The right to receive information from the  
18 department of family services on how to receive services  
19 and reach personnel twenty-four (24) hours a day, seven (7)  
20 days a week;

21

22 (viii) The right to be notified before the  
23 placement of a child of any issues related to the child

1 that may jeopardize the health or safety of the foster  
2 family or the child or alter the manner in which foster  
3 care should be administered;

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5 (ix) The right to discuss with the department of  
6 family services information regarding the child before  
7 placement as such information becomes available;

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9 (x) The right to refuse placement of a child in  
10 the foster home or to request, upon reasonable notice, the  
11 removal of a child from the foster home without fear of  
12 reprisal or any adverse effect on being assigned any future  
13 foster or adoptive placements;

14

15 (xi) The right to receive information from the  
16 department of family services on the number of times a  
17 foster child has been moved and the reasons therefor and to  
18 receive the names and phone numbers of the previous foster  
19 parents if the previous foster parents have authorized such  
20 release;

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22 (xii) The right to receive from the department  
23 of family services, at any time during the child's

1 placement with the foster parent, any additional  
2 information relevant to the care of the child;

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4 (xiii) The right to be provided with a written  
5 copy of a foster child's individual treatment and service  
6 plan, to discuss the plan with the case manager and to  
7 receive reasonable notification of any changes to the plan;

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9 (xiv) The right to participate in the planning  
10 of visitation with the foster child and the child's  
11 biological family, recognizing that visitation with the  
12 child's biological family is important to the child;

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14 (xv) The right to participate in the case  
15 planning and decision-making process regarding any foster  
16 child;

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18 (xvi) The right to provide input concerning a  
19 foster child's plan of services and to have the department  
20 of family services consider that input;

21

22 (xvii) The right to participate in the case of  
23 the foster child with other professionals who work with the

1 child, including, but not limited to, therapists,  
2 physicians and teachers;

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4 (xviii) The right to be notified in advance, in  
5 writing, by the department of family services or the court  
6 of any hearing or review, including initial and periodic  
7 reviews held by the court where the case plan or permanency  
8 of the child is an issue;

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10 (xix) The right to be considered, where  
11 appropriate, as a preferential placement option when a  
12 child who was formerly placed with the foster parent has  
13 reentered the foster care system;

14

15 (xx) The right to be considered, where  
16 appropriate, as the first choice as a permanent parent for  
17 a child who, after twelve (12) months of placement in the  
18 foster home, is released for adoption or permanent foster  
19 care;

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21 (xxi) The right to receive assistance in dealing  
22 with family loss and separation when a child leaves the  
23 foster home;

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2           (xxii) The right to be provided a fair and  
3 timely investigation of complaints concerning the foster  
4 parent's operation of the foster home;

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6           (xxiii) The right to receive an evaluation on  
7 the foster parent's performance;

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9           (xxiv) The right to an explanation of a  
10 corrective action plan or policy violation relating to the  
11 foster parent;

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13           (xxv) The right to appeal, in accordance with  
14 any applicable appeal procedures, the closing of a foster  
15 home, without threat of reprisal; and

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17           (xxvi) The right to have an advocate present at  
18 all portions of investigations of abuse and neglect at  
19 which an accused foster parent is present.

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21           **Section 2.** This act is effective July 1, 2017.

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(END)