

# I'M IN FOSTER CARE... WHAT ABOUT MY SIBLINGS?

Siblings living in foster care in Colorado have these rights unless they are not in the best interests of a sibling.



Siblings have the **right to be involved in each other's lives** and share celebrations if they choose (birthdays, graduations, holidays, school, cultural customs, etc.)



Siblings who can't be placed together have the **right to repeated and meaningful contact**. You also have the **right to less contact**.



If for some reason, contact is limited or not happening between siblings, you have the **right to know why** (as allowed by law).



Siblings have the **right to receive updated pictures of each other**. You also have the **right to receive contact information** for each other once a year, unless a foster parent doesn't want it to be shared.



Adult siblings have the **right to be looked at as possible foster parents, adoptive parents, or caretakers**.



Siblings have the **right to have contact encouraged** when they are placed for adoption or guardianship.



- Siblings have the **right to be placed in a foster home together**, when it is in the best interest of each sibling, and when a county department finds an appropriate, capable, willing, and available placement.
- Siblings have the **right to be placed in foster homes that are close together**.
- Siblings have the **right to be placed in short-term placements together**, when possible.
- Siblings have the **right to be placed with foster parents and possible adoptive parents** who are trained about the importance of sibling relationships.

- Siblings have the **right to a caseworker who is trained about the importance of sibling relationships**.
- Siblings have the **right to expect that their GAL or CFY will argue for repeat contact and visits**, unless it is not in their best interests.
- Siblings have the **right to be told ASAP about important events in each other's lives**, as permitted by CO and US laws.
- Siblings have the **right to be included in discussions and meetings about each other's plans for their future home**, if appropriate.
- Each sibling has the **right to receive a document** from the department **that explains sibling rights** in a way each sibling can understand.

