Some Rights of Siblings
Placed in Foster Care in Colorado

Siblings are brothers, sisters, half-brothers, and half-sisters. Siblings living in foster care have the following rights unless the following rights are not in the best interests of a sibling.

If the State finds an appropriate, capable, willing, and available placement for siblings, siblings have the right to be placed together in that placement.

Siblings have the right to be placed close to each other.

When possible, siblings have the right to be placed in short-term placements together.

Siblings have the right to have a State caseworker with training about the importance of sibling relationships. Siblings also have the right to be placed with foster parents and possible adoptive parents who have such training.

When allowed by state or United States laws, siblings have the right to be told about important events in their siblings’ lives right away. Important events include placement, placement changes, and leaving foster care.

When appropriate, siblings have the right to be included in discussions or meetings about each other’s future plans.

When siblings can’t be placed together, siblings have the right to meaningful and repeated contact.

Siblings who choose to do so have a right to be a big part of each other’s lives and share celebrations such as birthdays, graduations, holidays, school and extracurricular activities, and cultural customs in their language.

Unless a foster parent asks not to do so, siblings have the right to receive contact information for each other once a year. This information can include telephone numbers, addresses, social media accounts, and e-mail addresses.

Siblings have the right to recent and repeated photos of each other by mail or e-mail, when appropriate.

Siblings have the right to more private contact with each other.

When contact between siblings is not happening or is limited, siblings have the right to be told why, so long as state or United States law allows such information.

Siblings have the right to expect that their guardians ad litem (GALs) will argue for repeated sibling contact and visits, unless their GAL investigates sibling contact and visits and decides it is not in the best interests of a sibling.

Siblings have the right to have sibling contact encouraged when siblings are placed for adoption or guardianship.

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

Many times during a Dependency and Neglect (D&N) case, siblings have the right to a paper from the State explaining their sibling rights.

Comments? Questions? Please talk with your GAL!

Colorado Office of the
Child’s Representative