

OREGON FOSTER CHILDREN'S SIBLING BILL OF RIGHTS TIPS AND IDEAS

The Oregon Foster Children's Sibling Bill of Rights gives children and youth in foster care specific rights designed to protect and strengthen their bond with siblings. These rights include but are not limited to the right:

- To receive a document that lists their rights, and a verbal explanation of those rights
- To be placed in foster homes with their siblings, whenever possible
- To visit and maintain contact with siblings and receive assistance with transportation
- To have a sibling visit and contact plan that has been developed with their active engagement and participation and is followed while they are in care
- To be told why they cannot live with, talk to or see their siblings if they are not able to

HOW CAN YOU HELP PROMOTE AND STRENGTHEN SIBLING CONNECTIONS? BE CREATIVE!

Caseworkers	Foster Parents, Adoptive Parents and Guardians	Attorneys and Advocates	Community Members
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When siblings cannot be placed in the same home, keep them in close distance of each other • Rethink the idea of visits! They should feel casual and natural • Ensure the siblings have contact between visits • Frequently re-evaluate any barriers to joint placement and the appropriateness of sibling contact • Post the children as a sibling group on adoption bulletins 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be open to sibling groups of varying ages and genders • Be understanding of typical sibling behaviors • Build relationships with the foster parents of your child's siblings • Take turns hosting sibling visits such as trips to the park, sleep overs, day trips and celebrations; also consider enrolling siblings together in sports and activities • Reach out to your support network for help 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to ask about the efforts made to place siblings together and address barriers to sibling contact • Ask about the frequency and quality of visits and ongoing contact • Offer to help the children ask for changes in the sibling visit and contact plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Become a foster or adoptive parent • Become a respite provider to help give foster parents a chance to recharge • Volunteer at your local DHS office to help with transportation for visits • Educate your friends and family on the need for supportive homes for siblings living in foster care

DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THESE RESOURCES?

- Camp to Belong Oregon is a program that reunites brothers and sisters living in separate homes for events of fun and sibling connection. They provide weeklong summer camp programs and one day events around the state.
- Department funding is available for adoption and guardianship mediation regarding contact and visits with siblings, parents and other relatives.

To see the Oregon Foster Children's Sibling Bill of Rights poster, visit <https://apps.state.or.us/Forms/Served/ce0262.pdf>.



You can get this document in other languages, large print, braille or a format you prefer. Contact 503-378-3486. We accept all relay calls or you can dial 711.

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