

Resources

Office of Advocacy and Office of Equity Strategies

If you are having a problem in foster care or juvenile justice systems because of your sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression, contact us.

www.nyc.gov/acs/LGBTQ (212) 676-9421

The Ali Forney Center

The nation's largest and most comprehensive organization dedicated to providing support and services for homeless LGBT youth, aged 16-24, to escape the streets and begin to live healthy and independent lives.

www.aliforneycenter.org (212) 206-0574

The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Community Center – Center Youth/YES Program

The second-largest LGBT community center in the world providing a full range of support, education, arts, and leadership programming to LGBTQ and allied youth ages 13-21 through the Center Youth/YES program.

www.gaycenter.org (212) 620-7310

The Door

Offers young people ages 12-21 comprehensive educational, health, nutritional and counseling programs, as well as legal services.

www.door.org (212) 941-9090

HOTT (Health Outreach to Teens) – Callen-Lorde Community Health Center

Free or low cost medical and mental health care/counseling, including physical exams, gynecological exams, and STD/HIV treatment and testing to LGBTQ and homeless youth ages 13-24. Hormone therapy available for youth ages 18-24.

www.callen-lorde.org (212) 271-7200

Hetrick-Martin Institute/Harvey Milk High School

The Supportive Services Department provides group, family and individual counseling for LGBT youth and families. Also offers assistance with after school programs, intern placement, GED assistance, peer counseling, pantry and clothing.

www.hmi.org (212) 674-2400

The Trevor Project – Trevor Lifeline

A free and confidential hotline offering trained counselors available and equipped to support LGBTQ young people in crisis, feeling suicidal, or in need of a safe and nonjudgmental place to talk 24/7.

www.thetrevorproject.org/lifelinechat
(866) 488-7386

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

LGBTQ Youth in Foster Care and Juvenile Justice Systems



In Care, You Have the Right To...

1. An affirming home/residence that treats you with respect and meets your needs.
2. Be treated just like everyone else, and be free from discrimination (being treated unfairly or differently) because of your sexual orientation, gender identity, and/or gender expression.
3. Talk about or not talk about being lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and/or questioning to your family/provider.
4. Request to be called by a name and gender pronoun (he, she, etc.) that matches the gender you feel you are.
5. Express your gender in a way that matches the gender you feel you are.
6. Wear clothes and style your hair to match the gender you feel you are.
7. Be able to go to health and mental health providers that are safe for LGBTQ youth, and access programs/services that respect the gender you feel you are.
8. Ask to stay in a residence with other youth that are the gender you feel you are.
9. Get information about LGBTQ issues, groups, and websites on available computers.
10. Participate in all activities that are open to you, and you are interested in attending.
11. Bring your same-sex partner to events where boyfriends and girlfriends are invited.

12. Be informed when Family Team Conferences are taking place so that you are given the opportunity to be actively included in your case planning.

To learn more about your rights, go to:

www.nyc.gov/acs/LGBTQ

Providers Have the Responsibility To...

1. Create a respectful environment that meets your specific needs.
2. Protect you from discrimination and from unfair treatment, because of your sexual orientation (being lesbian, gay, bisexual, or straight), gender identity (being transgender or non-transgender), and/or gender expression (being feminine, masculine, or androgynous).
3. Stop staff from convincing you to reject or change your sexual orientation, gender identity, and/or gender expression.
4. Not tell anyone your sexual orientation or gender identity without your consent, unless the law makes it okay for them to do so.
5. Respect your gender identity by using your preferred name and gender pronoun.
6. Tell you about residences based on your gender identity rather than your sex-assigned-at-birth.
7. Inform you where to report any incident of bullying, harassment, or discrimination based on your sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression.

To learn more about your provider's responsibilities, go to:

www.nyc.gov/acs/LGBTQ

If You are Experiencing Bullying, Harassment, or Discrimination...

1. Raise your voice! Report the problem immediately to your provider's LGBTQ point person.
2. Write down the dates you reported every incident, including who you reported to, and what action, if any, that person said they would take.
3. Write down the dates you reported every incident, including who you reported to, and what action, if any, that person said they would take.
4. If the problem still isn't being fixed, contact the Office of Advocacy at (212) 676-9421 or the Office of Equity Strategies at LGBTQ@acs.nyc.gov

To learn more about how to make a complaint and fix the problem, go to:

www.nyc.gov/acs/LGBTQ

