

Youth in Out-of-Home Care Project

Lambda Legal
National Headquarters
120 Wall Street
19th Floor
New York, NY 10005-3904
tel 212 809-8585
fax 212 809-0055

Susan Sommer
Senior Counsel
ssommer@lambdalegal.org

Flor Bermudez
Staff Attorney
fbermudez@lambdalegal.org

Kaitlyn Gentile
Legal Assistant
kgentile@lambdalegal.org

If you or someone you know
needs help, call toll free:
1-866-LGBTTeen
1-866-542-8336

Lambda Legal's Youth in Out-of Home Care Project raises awareness and advances reform on behalf of LGBTQ youth in child welfare, juvenile justice and homeless systems of care. We aim to increase the will and capacity of youth-serving organizations to prepare and support LGBTQ youth as they transition from adolescence to independence. We work with LGBTQ youth as well as social workers, case managers, administrators and other child welfare advocates to ensure safe and affirming child welfare services for LGBTQ youth.

What We Do

- Create and distribute resources for LGBTQ youth and professionals working with them throughout child welfare, juvenile justice and homeless systems of care
- Partner with organizations like the Child Welfare League of America to increase awareness and capacity to serve LGBTQ youth in out-of-home care
- Increase training of adults who work with LGBTQ youth in out-of-home care
- Connect supportive child welfare professionals and advocates to build momentum for change
- Move public and private agencies toward full recognition and competence in meeting the needs of LGBTQ youth in out-of-home care
- Monitor and influence public policy that affects the rights of LGBTQ youth in out-of-home care or LGBTQ prospective foster or adoptive parents at the state and national levels
- Bring targeted impact litigation to protect the rights of LGBTQ youth in out-of-home care and to set legal precedents nationwide



Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning youth in foster care, juvenile justice systems and homeless shelters have rights:

- to be safe from harassment
- to be free from discrimination because they are LGBTQ or living with HIV
- to have people accept them for who they are, not try to change them
- to have adults stick up for them
- to be treated like everyone else